



Daily Report

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Commander Confirms Suspension of Baltic Troop Pullout

LD2308081293 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 0721
GMT 23 Aug 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Galina Kuchina for *BUSINESS-TASS*]

[Text] Riga August 23—"Any delay in signing agreements with the Baltic states can lead to the delay in the withdrawal of troops, and we will be physically unable to pull out the troops even before the end of 1994," Colonel-General Leonid Mayorov, commander of the Russian North-West Army, told *ITAR-TASS*.

General Mayorov recalled the legal procedure for the withdrawal of troops from East European countries. "Only after relevant agreements were signed with Germany, Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia our units began to leave those countries. As concerns the Baltics, Russia has already made steps to meet the three countries half-way by beginning the withdrawal of troops before signing agreements. But this was a goodwill gesture, which was regarded by some people as Russia's weakness, General Mayorov said.

The commander refuted reports about continued Russian withdrawal from Lithuania despite the decision to suspend the pull-out. Lithuanian radio, for instance, reported that a coastguard division had withdrawn from Klaipeda a few days ago and more trains had been ordered. "I say this with full responsibility: The pull-out of units has been suspended. We are transporting ammunition out of the republic, as too much had been accumulated in the Baltics since the war", the general said.

According to the commander, 2.5 thousand troops were still deployed in Lithuania after sixty per cent of the total Armed Forces has been relocated from the Baltics.

General Mayorov expressed surprise at the fact that the draft agreement already approved by the Russian and Lithuanian delegations has been supplemented with new figures, including 146 billion dollars for damages allegedly done by Russia. "Russia did no damage," the commander said. "In addition," he said, "Lithuania's obligations with regard to Russian servicemen on its territory have been deleted from the draft agreement. We cannot agree to this deletion".

The general also touched upon the upcoming arrival of a United Nations mission to study compliance with the resolution on the complete, well-managed and prompt withdrawal of foreign troops from the Baltics. "Everybody is stressing the words "complete and prompt" and omit the word "well-managed." We cannot simply flee the Baltics. We must first sign legal documents under which the sides assume specific obligations. It is impossible to ignore the fate of the people and Army property. We wish we could do it faster but it cannot be." Responding to a question about the declared intention of

some countries to help settle the officers and non-commissioned officers leaving for Russia, the commander said: "I only know about these intentions from press reports. In actual fact we are being helped only by the president and government of Russia, who allocate resources to build and by housing. These resources are, of course, insufficient. More than four hundred apartments have been built but we can lose them if we fail to mobilise 1,600 million roubles to pay for them".

The colonel-general also spoke about his recent meeting with the founders of the Russian-American-Latvian Association which was set up a short time ago to oversee the provision of housing to demobilised officers leaving the Baltics and other countries. The United States had allocated 6,000,000 dollars for the purpose.

"We are grateful for the initiative, but it is much more important for us now to pay for the housing which has already been built. One of the founders gave me to understand that one million dollars has already been used up to establish the association and its office. Another million and a half are intended to retrain officers. And the remaining 3.5 million dollars will be used to assemble houses brought from America. There will be 450 flats, out of which 395 are intended for Army people. Once again, we are grateful for this, but it would have been better if they had given the money to us, because building organisations from Russia have been approaching me daily, complaining that their facilities are lying idle for lack of orders, and there are no orders because there are no financial resources".

General Mayorov stressed in closing that the main thing was to sign agreements with the Baltic states as soon as possible.

Says Withdrawal Unlikely Before 1995

LD2208182693 Moscow *Russian Television Network in Russian* 1600 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Report on news conference by Colonel General Leonid Mayorov, commander of the Northwestern Group of Forces; place and date—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Colonel General Leonid Mayorov, commander of the Northwestern Group of Forces, said the delay in signing an agreement with the Baltic states could mean that the withdrawal of troops may not be complete by the end of 1994, saying we will simply be physically unable to do so.

According to Mayorov, the withdrawal of the Russian troops has been suspended in all three Baltic states. Only surplus ammunition is being removed. The transfer of sites has also been suspended. Troop withdrawal must be orderly—as indicated in international documents. It can only be carried out on the basis of an agreement stipulating the responsibilities of each side. Both the Russian president and parliament agree on this point, said Mayorov.

Commenting on reports that Western countries are providing aid to build housing for returning servicemen, Mayorov stressed that until now these have only been reports. Russia is the only country to have allocated any money.

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD2208105793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0955 MT 22 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Aug—The following statement of the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry has been circulated here today:

On 21 August, regular consultations with the Lithuanian side took place in Moscow in order to complete the work on the draft agreement on the pullout of Russian troops from Lithuanian territory. Unfortunately, these consultations have confirmed the lack of desire on the part of Vilnius to move towards signing this most important document, which would finalize de jure the completion of the withdrawal of Russian troops by 31 August.

Under these circumstances the Russian side sees no point in continuing the interstate talks on troop withdrawal. The withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania will, of course, be completed in accordance with the provisions of international law. However, it will now be carried out according to a timetable that is convenient to the Russian Federation, which the Lithuanian side will be advised of.

In the situation that has arisen, the Russian side regards itself as exempt from the obligations enshrined in the above-mentioned draft agreement to pay compensation for damage inflicted by Russian troops in Lithuania since 1992 and to transfer armaments to the Lithuanian side.

In connection with the threats that have been expressed in Lithuania recently against the Russian servicemen, members of their families, and other Russian citizens there, the Russian Foreign Ministry states quite definitely that, in the event of any provocations or other reckless actions, the Russian side's response will be fast, practical, and most resolute."

Kozyrev Questions Swedish Statement

LD2108082893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0745 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, 21 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The Department of Information and Press of the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry has today circulated a statement by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. It says: "The recent statement made by the Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas, in which she said that the Russian troop withdrawal from Lithuania has to be completed not later than 31 August, irrespective of whether an appropriate

agreement is concluded, has aroused perplexity, especially in the view of explanations given by the Russian Foreign Minister in the course of his conversations with the Swedish leadership, and Sweden's traditional adherence to settling international problems strictly on the basis of international legal norms and documents."

Foreign Ministry Warns of Tajik Offensive

LD2208095993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0905 GMT 22 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Aug—"The Russian side has information that the Tajik armed opposition together with the Afghan mujahedins detachments plan to launch large-scale military actions on the Tajik-Afghan border." This is said in a report circulated today by the Russian Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department. It underlines that the action "can lead to the disruption of the process of the peace settlement of the crisis situation in the area of the Tajik-Afghan border and in the region as a whole and to many unjustified victims among the Russian, Tajik, and Afghan citizens."

The document goes on to say: "The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has urged the government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to take the most decisive steps to prevent the unleashing of this major armed conflict on the Tajik-Afghan border from the territory of Afghanistan. We also demand that leaders of the Tajik opposition and the groups that support them on the Afghan territory drop their stake in the use of force and respond to a clear-cut offer of the Russian side to solve internal Tajik problems by way of dialogue, even though the development of such dialogue will most certainly require time and restraint from all sides.

"It must must be made very clear, however, that any attack against Russian border troops or servicemen of CIS states will meet the most severe rebuff backed by all the power of our Armed Forces."

Border Troop Commander on Visit to Tajikistan

LD2008201493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Report by correspondent A. Samoilev, including recorded remarks by Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, commander of Russia's frontier troops; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Samoilev] The working visit to Tajikistan by Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, commander of Russia's frontier troops, ended today.

At a meeting with government head Imamali Rakhmanov, the commander identified the main directions of the Russian Government's actions to normalize the situation, placing special emphasis on the left flank of the border, which remains the most alarming.

[Nikolayev] The situation has not changed radically. Indeed, I would say that the Khorog and Ishkashim sectors remain trouble spots on Tajikistan's border. Yesterday, however, when we were in the town of Khorog itself, the situation in the town was calm on the whole.

[Samoletov] As before, despite the joint efforts of three countries—Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Russia—the problem regarding the hostages has not been resolved.

According to the commander, who intends to continue working out the mechanism for their return to Moscow:

[Nikolayev] It is a matter only of the technical details of their hand-over to Russian representatives.

[Samoletov] As a whole, Col. Gen. Nikolayev, commander of Russia's border troops, described his trip by saying:

[Nikolayev] An immense amount of work remains to be done together with our Tajik colleagues, and also with colleagues from other CIS countries that took part in this conference.

Kabul Seen Using 'Pretexts' To Hold On to Hostages

PM2008125793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Pelts report: "Long Throwback to Afghan War. Kabul Abandons Plans To Free Soviet Soldiers Jailed During 14-Year War"]

[Text] Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar made this announcement during a news conference devoted to the results of his two-day visit to Pakistan. He stressed that the change in his government's plans is due to recent events on the Afghan-Tajik border, namely "Russian troops' attacks on refugees on Afghan territory."

It is extremely hard and, to be frank, dangerous to comment on this decision. Primarily because there are still to this day four Russian and one Kazakhstani border guard in Afghanistan, who were taken hostage 10 August this year on the Tajik-Afghan border. You would have thought that the events of the Afghan war have no bearing on them. Moreover, the Afghan Government firmly stated its readiness to release the hostages.

However, there are nonetheless grounds for concern. It is obvious, after all, that the prime minister is trying to link the Afghan war and the current problems on the Tajik-Afghan border. Why is that? Does he really want to put pressure on the Tajik leadership and also warn Russia of the possible undesirable consequences of its helping the incumbent regime in Dushanbe?

The politicians themselves will of course have the best grasp of these issues. For my part I would just like to stress that "attacks by Russian troops in Tajikistan" are a "convenient" pretext rather than the true reason

behind these statements. What is more, I would like to remind you what the majority of "Tajik refugees" on Afghan territory are. Can you regard as refugees people who are now crossing the Tajik border with weapons in hand, people who are being trained at special centers in Afghanistan and prepared for an armed incursion into Tajikistan?

We would remind you that the United States suggested to Afghanistan that it buy back the Stinger rockets that were supplied to the mojahedin during the war against the Soviet troops. However Afghanistan dragged its feet and ultimately rejected the offer. ITAR-TASS reports that Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar said at this same press conference that "...we have no intention of giving up even a single round for a Kalashnikov assault rifle."

Foreign Ministry on Kozyrev-Islamic Conference Talks

LD2008140993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1240 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] [no dateline as received] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has proposed that, after the signing in Geneva of a comprehensive agreement on Bosnia-Herzegovina, it should be consolidated in a new Security Council resolution and "the toughest measures should be applied" to those who violate it, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's information and press department, announced at a briefing today on Thursday's talks between the Russian minister and an Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] delegation. The mission is comprised of the ICO secretary general, the foreign ministers of Pakistan and Turkey, and Tunisia's secretary of state for foreign affairs.

The talks concentrated, he said, on a Bosnian settlement, on the tasks confronting the world community at the settlement's present stage, and on ensuring the preservation of Bosnia as a single independent state and member of the UN. A. Kozyrev welcomed the fact that the ICO states see their participation in ending the Bosnian conflict as being mainly in a political context.

As for immediate tasks in Bosnian affairs, the sides agreed on the need for the rapid establishment of a ceasefire and favored a growing role for the UN and its structures in Bosnia. A. Kozyrev pointed particularly to the danger of hasty actions involving force, which are out of keeping with present conditions and threaten to wreck the whole settlement mechanism and escalate the bloodshed.

The situation in the Tajik-Afghan border area was also discussed. The ICO delegation voiced its understanding of the measures being undertaken by Russia in conjunction with Tajikistan and other CIS members to find political means for settling the difficulties that have

arisen there, including the speedy liberation of the Russian and Kazakh servicemen who have been captured and are being detained on Afghan territory.

Commentator Criticizes U.S. Stance on Bosnia

LD2008161993 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Commentary by Anatoliy Potapov]

[Text] The Bosnia peace talks continue in Geneva with obvious progress. Authoritative opinions may be heeded. For instance, a Yugoslav peace conference negotiator, John Mills, believes all the sides display a serious approach to solving the problems involved. The Serb president, Slobodan Milosevic, regards the terms for a future agreement, as coordinated now, to be the way to progress. Of course, many difficulties are yet to be overcome at the talks, and so one cannot name the time for the end of the negotiations. But, writes our commentator, the accords—say, about the status of Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia, to be placed under UN jurisdiction—is another positive outcome of the talks.

In these circumstances, when as yet a thin thread has been stretched through the fabric of the peace settlement in the making, it is simply amazing that there can be still the menace of an act of strength in Bosnia. That is exactly a menace created by Washington with regard to the Bosnian Serbs by relying on the NATO air might and by keeping saying that there may be air strikes. Some impatient leaders are still shaking their fists when there is a special shortage of diplomatic searches for new approaches to bring the warring sides closer together, when there is a need for patience, common sense, and cool-headed calculation in the interests of peace in southern Europe. All this reminds of a bull in a china shop.

Much has already been said about a military intervention that in Bosnia's conditions may lead to the intensification of the war. Once again, the commander of the UN forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, General Francis Briquemont of Belgium, announced that air bombing would not promote the settlement of the crisis. His deputy, Gen. Hayes of Britain, stressed that NATO aircraft would not be able to defeat the Serbs. Well, these opinions by authoritative military specialists met with irritation from Washington and were regarded as tactless and irrelevant.

Russia categorically opposes any military action, especially now that some progress at the Geneva talks has begun to show. The main test now is to lead the negotiating process to a peace agreement, whereas military measures could—in my opinion—prompt the Bosnian Muslims to drag on the talks.

Macedonia Told of Desire To Establish Ties

LD2008171093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1554 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—Russia has offered Macedonia to establish bilateral diplomatic relations, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Grigory Karasin told a briefing here today.

On August 18 the representative of the Macedonia Republic in Moscow was handed in a note of the Russian Foreign Ministry with a proposal to establish official inter-state relations, he said.

Russia is ready to send its representative to Skopje.

Russia was a first state to officially recognize the Republic of Macedonia on August 4, 1992. Macedonia has been admitted to the United Nations Organization.

Foreign Ministry Official on Mideast Peace Process

LD2208135693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0630 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Member of the Palestinian leadership Mahmud 'Abbas is to arrive in Moscow today. The purpose of his visit is to continue consultations within the framework of preparations for the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington on 30 August.

The objective of the talks, begun in October 1991 on the initiative of Russia and the United States, is to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of UN resolutions and the principle contained in them of peace in exchange for land. The talks are proceeding very slowly, however, so slowly that one is sometimes left with a feeling that they are interminable. However, those directly concerned with the talks are not inclined to lay it on so thick. Here is an assessment of the situation by Viktor Posuvalyuk, head of the Africa and Near East Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

[Begin Posuvalyuk recording] The main outcome of the 20-month work of the Madrid process is very important. Although there have not yet been any dramatic breakthroughs at the talks, the sides have earnestly and, we hope, irrevocably endorsed their intention to strive for agreement within the framework of a political dialogue, and the terms compromise, joint document, in stages, and mutual acceptability have firmly entered their lexicon.

As the Arabs and the Israelis get closer at the Washington talks to the essence of their historical dispute, they are attempting to find points in common, and contacts and cooperation between the Russian co-sponsor and the Arabs and Israelis are becoming more frequent and more intense. In particular, I recently returned from a trip to

Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Tunisia. This trip was made in coordination with the U.S. co-sponsor, which undertook a very important action in the trip of Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Near East.

The main purpose of my trip was achieved in the course of detailed conversations with leading figures in the three Arab states, and in Tunisia, Yasir 'Arafat and I went through in detail the Arab-Israeli negotiating files with the main aim of terminating the endless marking-time at the Washington talks. In our view, we managed to reveal the areas where the positions of the Arabs and the Israelis can be reduced to a common denominator, and later arrive at some tangible accords. Our exchange of views revealed two main points that we think are positive: Firstly, an awareness by the Arabs and Israelis of the prospectless nature for them of a return to their positions prior to Madrid, and of the need to advance the negotiating process and secondly, the interests of all the sides in an intensification of our own role in Near East affairs.

As a result of the contacts, both the co-sponsors have concluded that it is necessary to resume the Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington on 30 August. We have already sent the appropriate notification to the interested sides, and we are awaiting their official replies. A regular meeting of five Arab foreign ministers in a few days time will have its say in this regard. We do not as yet have any grounds to expect any objections to the proposals of the co-sponsors, especially since this practical work during the quiet season, regarding the trying-out of compromise Arab-Israeli formulas, constitutes quite a good starting point for the work of the negotiators directed at agreeing on the first joint documents.

Calls For Resumption of Talks 30 Aug

LD2008183393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1717 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—"The Middle East is a priority area of the Russian foreign policy held on the basis of a strategy coordinated with all power structures," head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Asia and Middle East Department Viktor Posuvalyuk told a briefing here today.

Russian participation in the Arab-Israeli settlement as a co-sponsor of the peace process is a major area of Russian diplomatic efforts. The main aim of negotiations is comprehensive conflict settlement on the basis of U.N. resolutions.

The 20-months Madrid process resulted in the sides' intention to look for a solution within the framework of a political dialogue. Both Arabs and Israelis understood the hopelessness of return to the pre-Madrid positions and the need to boost the negotiations process. The recurrence of Arab-Israeli confrontation in Lebanon has

confirmed once again the "reason for all troubles is chronic unsettledness of the mideastern conflict".

Russia consistently calls for preservation of territorial integrity and unity of Lebanon and supports Security Council resolutions on Israeli troops withdrawal from Lebanese territory, said the Russian diplomat. This essential approach influenced the Russian stand on recent Lebanese developments, when Russia voiced the inadequacy of Israeli force operation and the need for its termination.

Both co-sponsors of the peace process agreed on the need to resume the Arab-Israeli negotiations on August 30 in Washington. Corresponding notifications have been sent to the interested sides, he said.

Outlines Mideast Strategy

LD2008191993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] A news conference for Russian and foreign journalists took place today at the press center of the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation. It was addressed by Viktor Viktorovich Posuvalyuk, director of the Department for Africa and the Near East of Russia's Foreign Ministry. In his address and in his subsequent replies to journalists's questions, he outlined the main features of the strategy and tactics of Russian diplomacy for the near future in the Near Eastern region. In particular, this is what he said:

[Begin Posuvalyuk recording] The Near East, with all its problems—and, most importantly, with everything encompassed by this problem—is already affecting our own Russian interests in the widest possible sense. All this is indeed one of our decisive priorities in foreign policy. Our course in the Near East is being implemented on the basis of a fine-tuned and—I am glad to note this—a coordinated strategy, a strategy coordinated with all decisionmaking power structures of the Russian Federation. This is a strategy and a concept of our relations with the countries of the region.

Well, if one is to try to set out briefly the guidelines of this strategic line, they look approximately as follows: First, Russia is not seeking enemies and is trying to achieve friendship and make friends in this major region. This is not all that emotional or naive a way of stating this. I think that a pragmatic policy is a real attempt to get away from confrontation and ideology-ridden attitudes in our practical affairs in the Near East.

The main thing, however, is to get away from attempts to seek enemies and to try not to judge matters in black-and-white terms on the basis of the this is mine—that is yours principle. [end recording]

Government Considers Weapons Sale to ROK

SK2308013593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0107 GMT
23 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 23 (YONHAP)—The Russian Government is actively studying the possibility of providing South Korea with Russian-made weapons to repay the principal on South Korean loans, it was reported Monday [23 August].

A high-ranking official at the Korean Embassy in Moscow said that the Moscow government recently told Korea it could supply missiles, fighter weapons in order to solve the loan repayment problem.

However, the Russian Government made no mention of specific weapons or their quantity, the official said, requesting anonymity.

The Moscow government, which is facing extreme economic difficulty, told Seoul that it is unable to repay the Korean loans or the interest on them either in cash or in commodities such as aluminum ingots.

Payment in weapons could be the best possible way, Moscow is understood to have told Korean officials in Moscow.

The Russian Government is expected to officially bring up the possibility when Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, who is currently visiting Seoul, holds talks with his South Korean counterpart, Yi Kyong-sik, Tuesday.

Earlier, the South Korean defense ministry said it was considering purchasing a limited quantity of Russian weapons to study them to understand North Korea's military capability as the North Koreans are equipped mostly with Russian weapons.

Western diplomatic sources, however, believe that there is a limit for possible purchase by South Korea of Russian weapons in view of South Korea's defense treaty with the United States and the presence of U.S. troops in South Korea.

Meanwhile, Russia, in an effort to find a breakthrough in its economic difficulties, signed contracts with China and Malaysia to supply weapons, including the MiG-29. It also is promoting sales of weapons to Thailand, the Philippines and other Asian countries.

Stimulated by the increasing weapons sales by Russia, the United States is also stepping its sales efforts in the region, informed sources said.

Shokhin To Discuss Military-Technical Package in ROK

LD2208115693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in
Russian 1100 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Aleksandr Shokhin, deputy head of the Russian Government, arrived in South Korea today. From Seoul

he departed for the town of Taejon, where on Monday, a Russian delegation will be taking part in the Days of Russia event at the Expo-93 world exhibition.

During his visit to South Korea, Aleksandr Shokhin will meet President Kim Yong-sam, and will discuss the possibility of a visit to Moscow as per an invitation received earlier from Boris Yeltsin.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Aleksandr Shokhin spoke of the need to implement specific projects for bilateral economic cooperation, including the creation of a South Korean technology center near the port of Nakhodka, and joint extraction of Yakutian natural gas.

Aleksandr Shokhin said that a package of proposals on military and technical cooperation will also be submitted to South Korea.

Russia Seeking Path to Pacific Via DPRK Ports

PM2308084793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in
Russian 14 Aug 93 First Edition p 7

[Interview with Mr. Agafontsev, representative of the Russo-Korean Trading House, by Sergey Tikhomirov; place and date not given: "Russia Rediscovered North Korea"]

[Text] This country was once one of our closest friends. Around 10 years ago to be exact. From 1985 onward friendship was mentioned only in congratulatory telegrams for various state reasons. Following the "historic" (notorious) Belovezhskaya Forest meeting, when it was decided to baptize Russia in "democracy," even recalling the Pyongyang regime at all became somewhat awkward—there was a great leader there and socialism...

But had Moscow's political, military, and economic priorities in North Korea changed, if you do not look at it from the "beli tower" on Smolensk Square? Hardly. At any rate, clever, knowledgeable people do not think so. Further confirmation of this was provided by the recently ended talks between the Russo-Korean Trading House and a DPRK delegation headed by Mr. Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of that country's External Economic Committee.

The meeting was initiated by the Russian side, representatives [as published] of which kindly agreed to answer a few questions specially for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

[Tikhomirov] Mr. Agafontsev, what prompted you to take such a currently unfashionable and, I would even say, politically naive step as to set up the Russo-Korean Trading House and to hold this meeting with the North Koreans?

[Agafontsev] I understand your irony, since we know that the new generation allegedly chooses "Pepsi." That is by no means the case. And I will try to explain why.

To a certain extent we probably are taking some risks, since we are well aware not only of official Moscow's

attitude to official Pyongyang, but also of North Korea's currently very difficult economic position. Yet the current political conditions are no excuse for closing our eyes to the obvious benefits which both our countries can derive if we want them.

The reality is that, following the Soviet Union's sensational suicide, Russia has to all intents and purposes been cut off from the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea. Naturally, it has turned its gaze to the Far East. But, even there, how much could the port of Vladivostok or Nakhodka handle? Even if they really wanted to. Our trading house proposes that we rediscover Korea. Or, rather, that we return to something that Russia was working on at least 100 years ago—gaining unhindered and possibly extensive access to the Pacific.

[Tikhomirov] Incidentally, the Koreans themselves never tire of recalling the historical fact that the Japanese killed their Yi Dynasty queen precisely because she was planning to lease three eastern ports to Russia—Rajin, Wonsan, and Pusan.

[Agafontsev] Our interests and those of our Korean partners coincide. Of course, we are not in a position to lease that port at Rajin, but, with the help of our cofounders—of which there are currently more than 20, and all of them very substantial—we are planning to help all interested Russian private and state structures to find their own way to the Pacific.

To start with, we are talking about cooperation on transit import-export rail shipments to the port of Rajin. In the future there will be participation in the port's modernization and the resumption of mutually advantageous trade with our Far Eastern neighbor.

[Tikhomirov] Aren't you casting your net too wide? Ultimately, how can a trading house—even one with such an impressive name as yours—compare with the somehow still flourishing Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations?

[Agafontsev] Of course, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations undoubtedly has first call. But, regretably, hardly a single intergovernmental agreement concluded in the past is currently operative. For well-known reasons, incidentally. And our bilateral trade turnover has fallen virtually fivefold compared with the late eighties, for instance. Moreover, the ministry has always, as a rule, elaborated an overall strategy, without having the ability get into specific details. These are the jobs we are attempting to take on. But this in no way means that we are staking a claim to being some kind of stand-in for the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations—much less to having a monopoly on relations with the DPRK. Quite frankly, we simply don't have that kind of clout. The idea is basically simple—we have a handle on the situation both here and in North Korea. We know the country quite well, and, while naturally not forgetting our own interests—which would be at the very least absurd and unconvincing—we are attempting to help people to “rediscover” North Korea.

Japan To Seek Normalization of Relations With Russia

LD2308061393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0552 GMT 23 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo August 23 TASS—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa of Japan proclaimed an intention to give “all-round support” to Russian reforms, addressing the Japanese parliament with a policy statement on Monday.

The head of the newly elected coalition government also expressed an intention to seek resolution of “the northern territories” issue and a full normalization of Russo-Japanese relations.

Chernomyrdin, Kostikov Remarks Cause Kurils ‘Puzzle’

PM2008153793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 93 First Edition p 7

[Sergey Larin article under “The World and Russia” rubric: “Prime Minister Has Proposed Deciphering the Puzzle Over the ‘Kurils Issue’”]

[Excerpts] Words can have different functions. If a man keeps them in check, they are his slave, but once they break free they become his master....

The words which the Japanese caught Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin saying have seemingly become the sort that have taken on a life of their own. According to news agency reports, Chernomyrdin stated during his stay in the Far East (on two occasions, moreover—in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and on the island of Iturup) that Tokyo and Moscow “do not have a territorial issue.” [passage omitted]

These remarks (voluntary or involuntary) by the Russian prime minister on this ticklish matter understandably caused a real rumpus in the Japanese mass media as well. [passage omitted]

One thing, however, is very clear: Russia's top-level executive branch, in a style which is seemingly becoming a distinctive trademark (let us recall the recent “monetary reform,” for example), has again presented the world with yet another puzzle. This time regarding the subtle “Kurils issue,” which has been a constant irritation to officials in Moscow and Tokyo for several years now. A statement by the Russian president's press secretary the day before yesterday proves that V. Chernomyrdin has formulated a “problem with a lot of unknowns.” The statement says: “As the preparations get under way for Russian President B.N. Yeltsin's visit to Japan, an increasing number of opinions and comments regarding the ‘territorial issue’ are appearing in the press and in statements by politicians. Internal

events in Russia and Japan are undoubtedly stimulating debate and the search for new approaches to this problem.

"Russia is pursuing a single, coordinated domestic and foreign policy on the basis of profound and strong government solidarity." (sic! My emphasis, S.L.)

Russian President B.N. Yeltsin believes that the future development and expansion of economic and political cooperation between Russia and Japan will be implemented via the path and mechanism being prepared "by steps of political evolution enabling the most complex questions of mutual cooperation between Russia and Japan to be resolved," Vyacheslav Kostikov notes.

Just one point remains: To guess who is master of his own words.

Incidentally, several days ago in an interview with KYODO, the director of the Russian president's Press Service described the joint Soviet-Japanese declaration of 1956, which envisages handing over two islands—Kunashir and Habomai—to Japan after the signing of a peace treaty, as "unrealistic...."

Japan Regrets Chernomyrdin Remarks on Kurils

PM2008142993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Report by Ye. Zarubina; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Regret has already been expressed in Tokyo today in connection with yesterday's statement by Prime Minister Chernomyrdin on the territorial problem in relations between Russia and Japan. While meeting with the inhabitants of Iturup, the premier stated among other things that for him there is no problem regarding the northern territories. He also said that the transfer to Japan of a number of islands from the Kuril chain is out of the question at present. Chernomyrdin stressed in particular that this is his opinion and that of his cabinet. In the light of this the Japanese Foreign Ministry has published a document expressing the view that this stance is at variance with the policy line of the Russian Government. The document also points out that Japan's foreign policy department is seeking clarification from the Russian side as to the accuracy of news reports on Chernomyrdin's statements on the problem of the northern territories, the existence of which Moscow has acknowledged for many years. Meanwhile, President Yeltsin's Press Secretary Kostikov has declared today that Russia is conducting a unified agreed policy on the basis of deep-seated government solidarity. There is confusion in Japan's political quarters insofar as, they say, conflicting information on the problem of the Kuril Islands is coming from Moscow. Russian-Japanese consultations at deputy foreign minister level are scheduled for next week. As SANKEI reported with reference to Foreign Ministry sources, the Japanese side does not expect to make much progress in solving the Kuril problem at the meeting. However, there is virtually no

doubt that the Japanese will appeal to the Russian side for details and explanations in connection with the contradictory statements by the presidential administration and the head of the Russian Government.

Yeltsin Aide Foresees Resolution of Kurils Issue

OW2008144293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1425 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 20 KYODO—A senior aide to Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Friday [20 August] Russia has no intention of delaying a conclusion to the territorial dispute with Japan until the next generation.

Former State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis made the remark in a meeting with Japanese correspondents in Moscow.

His comment followed Yeltsin's statement on Thursday that denying the existence of a territorial dispute with Japan is one of the options Russia is considering for his planned trip to Tokyo in mid-October.

Burbulis met with the Japanese media after diplomatic sources in Moscow said he will visit Japan next month for talks with Prime Minister Mohiriro Hosokawa.

Yeltsin said at a news conference that when Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said earlier this week that there is no bilateral territorial dispute, he cited "one of the many" options Moscow is considering prior to the Japan tour.

On Tuesday, Chernomyrdin said during his visit to the Russian Far East that the territorial dispute is nonexistent and that Russia will reject negotiations with Japan on the matter.

Chernomyrdin later told local government officials that his remarks were the Russian cabinet's "official position."

"We have no territorial problems now," he said, adding "as long as the present (Russian) cabinet exists, we will never hand over any part of our territories."

The Japanese Government has expressed grave concern over Chernomyrdin's remarks, saying if the reported remarks were true, they "contradict the basic policy of the Russian Government and are extremely regrettable."

Japan demands that Russia return what it calls the northern territories—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan islands and the Habomai group of islets—which were seized by the Soviet Red Army at the end of World War II.

Shevardnadze Says Russian-Georgian Treaty Set

LD2308110993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 23 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Gvritishvili and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Aug—A full-scale treaty between Russia and Georgia will be signed in Moscow in September of this year, the Georgian head of state said at the end of his Kremlin meeting with Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation.

Answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent, he said that "naturally the main issue at the meeting was the problem of settling the conflict in Abkhazia. We expressed our satisfaction with the fact that fairly sound first steps have been taken to stop the firing, and also that conditions are being created for a final settlement of the conflict."

Abkhazia Peace Commission Reports on Talks

LD2208173393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Zhilyakov]

[Text] Sochi, 22 Aug—At its session today the joint trilateral commission for settling the conflict in Abkhazia assessed the first results of the work to implement the schedule for withdrawing military formations. "The commission noted that the Abkhazian side had implemented the schedule. The Georgian side was implementing it," Sergey Shoygu, chairman of the Russian State Committee for Emergencies and head of the Russian delegation, commented to journalists. He noted, however, that "the participants in the sitting specifically indicated in their resolution that the Georgian side was so far not observing the schedule for withdrawing artillery from Abkhazian territory."

The commission also discussed the problems of disengaging troops on the eastern front. A proposal was made to conduct the disengagement of military formations there under the supervision of reinforced interim supervisory groups.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent noted that the Georgian side has for the first time indicated what is hampering the withdrawal of troops from certain areas. One reason is the existence of armed detachments not taking orders from the central leadership. According to the Georgian side, these detachments have blockaded roads in western Georgia, and there are fears that military hardware will simply be seized.

A proposal was therefore made by some participants in the sitting to use sea and air transport for the prompt withdrawal of this hardware. Another initiative that generated some interest was to set up special sapper groups "entitled to eliminate military hardware on the spot wherever its withdrawal is being delayed."

The main aim of the tripartite agreement concluded in Sochi on 27 July has already been achieved. Peace has gradually been setting in here since the conclusion of the agreement.

Further on Talks

LD2208195093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A meeting of the joint commission for the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia opened today in Sochi. The agenda includes the implementation of a plan for the withdrawal of troops from the Georgia-Abkhaz conflict zone. Delegations from Russia, Georgia, and Abkhazia are taking part in the work of the commission. The Russian delegation includes Sergey Shoygu, chairman of the Russian committee for emergency situations, and Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov. Yesterday tripartite inspection groups worked on the eastern and Gumista fronts, where they were checking the implementation of the disengagement of warring sides and the withdrawal of troops.

[Unidentified correspondent] During this meeting the sides discussed a number of problems related to the nonwithdrawal from Abkhazia of Georgian military equipment and personnel from the Georgian Defense Ministry subdivisions and Ioseliani's units. Members of the joint commission said that the Georgian side has repeatedly given unfounded reasons for keeping its units in Abkhazia. According to a preliminary decision of the joint commission, the final date for the withdrawal of all subdivisions is set for 25 August via maritime transport or 1 September via air transport. The Russian side is going to be responsible for the technical part of this operation.

Foreign Ministry Supports UN Statement on Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2208170393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1453 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Aug—Russia condemns the offensive operations, including seizures of towns, villages, and other territories, as well as the missile and artillery shelling and bombing of settlements in Azerbaijan. They are all a gross violation of international humanitarian law said Grigoriy Karasin, director of the press and information department of Russia's Foreign Ministry, at a briefing held today.

He recalled that on 19 August, a statement by the chairman of the UN Security Council on Nagorno-Karabakh, approved by all members of the council, was adopted. The Security Council called on the Armenian Government to use all of its influence to ensure that the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh implement UN Security Council Resolutions 822 and 853. Karasin noted that the delay in fulfilling these resolutions and the

fighting that has taken place around Fizuli are worrying the world community and seriously damaging peace-keeping efforts.

Karasin added that the Russian Foreign Ministry supports the statement by the UN Security Council chairman and is in favor of ending the military action, a withdrawal from occupied territories, and speeding up the talks.

Ukraine General Hit for Revealing Secrets to DIA Staffers

*PM2008134793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
20 Aug 93 p 1*

[Viktor Drozd report: "General's Big Heart. Ukraine Does Not Hide Military Secrets From Americans"]

[Text] They were prevented from making this document public during a television program by the presenter: Airtime had "suddenly" run out. People's Deputies V. Marchenko and A. Charodeyev then published a deputy's question to Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk in the newspaper TOVARISHCH.

The fact is that a group of professional intelligence personnel from the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) recently visited Ukraine. They received, the press reported, a more than cordial reception. And, in the opinion of the authors of the question, this smacks of a crime. After all, under the patronage of General A. Skipalskiy, head of Ukraine's Military-Strategic Intelligence Directorate and chairman of Ukraine's Officers' Union, the U.S. visitors were shown the most secret of installations, whose secrets foreign special services have been after for years.

The general's big heart can be considered Ukraine's personal affair—but the secrets are not only Ukrainian but also Russian and CIS state secrets (moreover, this has already placed L. Kuchma in an awkward position with V. Chernomyrdin). The chief Ukrainian intelligence officer's "openness" so angered certain officers at the secret facilities that they simply slammed the door on the uninvited guests.

Citing these and other facts, the people's deputies asked Kravchuk what had prompted Skipalskiy to "show off state secrets"—the poor professionalism of a specialist elevated by nationalist forces to such a lofty post, an order from Defense Minister K. Morozov, or, maybe, a "recent trip to the United States," where Skipalskiy "essentially traveled all over the country without supervision, nor is it known with whom or for what purpose." "Severe disquiet and indignation are being generated by the merging of the Officers' Union and the (sociopsychological—V.D.) service led by Gen. V. Mulyava with profascist organizations, as well as by their provocative actions, designed to exacerbate the situation with regard to Ukraine and Russia, and the clash between our states' special services" and special-purpose troop subunits.

Deputies were also puzzled by the fact that Skipalskiy, along with Morozov and other generals, left on a visit to the United States after the start of the investigation into "the handing over of important state secrets to the DIA." There Morozov, speaking about interstate relations, ranked "U.S. interests" first.

Space Agency Director To Hold Talks with U.S. Counterparts

LD2108144293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0536 GMT 21 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Bakina]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Aug.—Yuriy Koptev, general director of the Russian Space Agency (RSA), plans to leave for the United States on 24 August to meet representatives of the U.S. Space Department. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this from well-informed sources.

The subject of the talks has not yet been announced. However, it is known that they will deal with cooperation between Russia and the United States in the field of space technologies, and will also touch upon the place of the Russian Federation in the world space market today.

Evidently, this meeting will rank as another step by Russia in the field of international cooperation in space, and changes may be expected. It will be recalled that past talks in the United States attracted world attention. Back then, Russia announced that it would not be able to implement fully a Russo-Indian contract that had been concluded earlier, particularly with regard to the transfer of rocket technology. "The agreement to supply India with rocket technology was clinched in different economic and political conditions," Yuriy Koptev said in conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. In the opinion of the head of the RSA, the economic reasons referred to Russia's current grave financial situation. "India's space program is worth only 200 million dollars," said the general director of the RSA. "Whereas the launching alone of a commercial satellite costs 600-700 million dollars."

As Yuriy Koptev sees it, the political aspect of the matter related to the fact that: "Rocket technologies may be used for both civilian and military purposes. Therefore, the obligations imposed by the international rules for control over the nonproliferation of rocket technology do not allow [us] to implement all the points of the agreement in full."

Presumably, Russia's difficulties on the issue of commercial satellite launches will be discussed at the upcoming meeting. An international queue exists for such launches and the Russian state is not at the front of it. "Supply exceeds demand two and one-half times over," Yuriy Koptev said. "Russia has a good chance of 'bagging', at best, nine European satellite launches, and the possibility of launches to accompany the launch of U.S. satellites, as 70 percent of space equipment is produced in the United States. Therefore, in order to

compete in the space business, you need to have an export license, and the significance of that lies not in money, but in the difficulty of obtaining it."

Radio Commentary on U.S. Readiness To Use Force

LD2108143093 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Commentary by Anatoliy Potapov]

[Text] The United States says it will resort to the use of military force in Asia and other parts of the world if it decides the local developments present a threat to its national interests. This is a commentary by Anatoliy Potapov.

In a sensational statement the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Winston Lord, has declared his country is prepared to use military force in Asia and the rest of the world if its national interests are put at risk. The United States, said Mr. Lord, reserved the right and responsibility to take action.

Such a statement sounds absolutely surprising in these days of political change. Just think, the right to use force any place on earth. Who and when [as heard] endowed the United States with this right? The United Nations Security Council gives serious consideration to and, often as not, rejects any suggestion for the use of force because the use of force may have dangerous repercussions.

The United Nations alone is entitled to authorize the use of force. Individual battle cries such as that now being made by the United States are completely out of style. What, however, underlies the Lord statement? Does it signal a change in the United States's strategy for international relations? Without asking for UN authorization, the United States has bombed Baghdad. Civilian lives were lost in the bombing raid. The United States has exceeded the limits of the Security Council mandate in Somalia also.

The Lord statement will be taken as yet another piece of shocking news in many countries. It is possible, however, that the assistant secretary of state revealed his personal views. It is to be hoped that he was doing just that.

Trade Accord To Be Signed During Yeltsin Poland Visit

PM2008135193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed "At First Hand" report: "Draft Treaty Between Russian And Poland Approved"]

[Text] During President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Poland, among other important matters, a Treaty Between the Russian Federation and Republic of Poland on Trade and Economic Cooperation is evidently going to be signed. Preparations are currently under way for the president's visit to Poland, and the Russian Federation Government has already approved the draft treaty submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin has signed the relevant Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government decree. The treaty envisages, in particular, that as soon as it enters into effect, the 7 July 1945 trade treaty between the former USSR and the Republic of Poland and a number of agreements between the government of the former Union and the government of Poland—the 15 April 1964 agreement on the establishment of a Soviet-Polish intergovernmental commission on economic and scientific-technical cooperation; the 13 November 1990 agreement between the two governments on mutual economic relations; and the 3 September 1991 agreement on trade and economic cooperation—will cease to be valid.

Round of Military Talks With Poland End in Kaliningrad

LD2108203393 Warsaw PAP in English 1804 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 21—A successive round of Polish-Russian talks on military issues, attended by representatives of general staffs of the two countries, commanders of the Russian Baltic Fleet and of the 11th Russian Army deployed in the Kaliningrad district, ended in Kaliningrad on Friday.

The negotiations included the possible cooperation of the Russian 11th Army and Baltic Fleet with the Warsaw Military District. Several agreements were also signed following the negotiations but their contents was not made public.

**Foreign Trade Minister Resigns Following
'Violations'***LD2108162893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in
Russian 1440 GMT 21 Aug 93*

[Text] A news conference has just ended at the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. Our correspondent Aleksandr Kulinin reports from the scene. Go ahead, please.

[Kulinin] Thank you. I'll get straight to the point. Sergey Glazyev, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations of the Russian Federation, has tendered his resignation.

Briefly, here are the events. On 20 August, Sergey Glazyev was supposed to fly out on a visit along with a large group of economic experts, representing the Russian Federation to several countries—Tunisia, South Africa, Zambia, Mozambique, and Egypt.

Two days before the visit he appeared before the reporting commission of [Justice Minister] Kalmykov who, on the basis of two pieces of information received by the control directorate of the president's administration, drew the conclusion that the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations had committed violations—although it was not only the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations that was mentioned. Nevertheless, accusations were leveled at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. Afterwards, Glazyev met with commission representatives and put forward his position, disagreeing with several of the tenets put forward in the report.

On 20 August, as I said already, he flew off with members of the delegation at 0845 but was returned to the airport at 1150 and after that, remaining at the airport, he tried to get in touch with [First Deputy Prime Minister] Shumeyko. He got through - at that time Shumeyko was carrying out the duties of [Prime Minister] Chernomyrdin who was in the Far East - and tried to persuade him that the visit had to be continued. But in line with the report commission, and in keeping with the decision by the government administration, in particular, the press attache of the Ministry pointed to the instructions of Kvasov, head of the apparatus of the Council of Ministers, and the visit was postponed.

Journalists who attended the news conference were acquainted with a document, or rather a request, which Sergey Glazyev has addressed to the president on his resignation. He says that the cancelation of the visit was unprecedented. Three months were spent preparing the visit. The cancellation will inflict great damage, great foreign political damage upon the country and the prestige of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the Russian Federation.

Further Details on Resignation*LD2108183693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1738
GMT 21 Aug 93*

[By BUSINESS-TASS business correspondent Irina Bolshova]

[Text] Moscow August 21 (TASS)—Russian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations [Glazyev] sent in his resignation today. A reason for this decision was a report submitted to the Russian president by the inter-department commission against crime and corruption on responsibility of officials from the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and the Ministry of Fuel and Power Engineering for non-fulfillment of presidential instructions and resolutions of the Council of Ministers in foreign economic activities.

The document noted, in particular, the violation of instructions in the issuance of export licences and conclusion by some foreign economic associations of deals, whose expediency has been questioned.

An extraordinary meeting of the board of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations said on Friday "the ministry does not agree with the commission's conclusions, claiming the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations does not provide for state control over export deliveries of strategic raw materials."

A letter Glazyev has sent to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin says "the real hidden motive of my persecution is the struggle for power of mafia structures, who considered the ministry's activities to put in order foreign economic activities to be a threat to their interests."

Another reason for Glazyev's resignation was a decision to terminate the African visit of an inter-department delegation headed by Sergey Glazyev, the minister's press secretary Valentin Kulikov told correspondents here today.

The trip had been prepared for three months and its cancellation against the background of numerous confirmations on the part of African governments inflicted enormous foreign political damage on Russia and the prestige of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations.

**Opposition Calls on Supporters To Back
Parliament***LD2008184793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1802
GMT 20 Aug 93*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—Participants in a rally of protest currently being held outside the Russian Parliament, are calling to back the parliament and come out against the president's and the government's policies. The rally was organized by the National Salvation Front and a number of oppositional parties and organisations, including communist-oriented organisations.

Addressing the rally from an improvised rostrum, speakers called to "protect people's councils of all levels from possible attacks by the executive authorities." One of the speakers pointed out that the Russian Parliament was the only body of power in the country capable of maintaining the least possible order in the country and being a guarantor of protecting the Constitution and law in the country. Some speakers, whose language contained obscenities of the worst kind, have poured an avalanche of criticism on the policy of reforms.

Despite an agreement with the city authorities that the rally should be continued until 18:00 p.m., remonstrants decided not to leave the square in front of the parliament building, intending to picket the building throughout the night.

Incidentally, organisers of two alternative meetings in Moscow devoted to tragic events of August, 1991, have promised not to allow any excess entailing the violation of public order and safety of citizens. On the eve of the rally they signed a protocol, approving of measures taken by the city government and the Interior Ministry to notify about the order of holding mass rallies in Moscow on August 19-21.

To Support Khasbulatov

LD2008171393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1646 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—The parliamentary opposition will support Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov as long as he abides by the laws and the Constitution and does not exceed their limits in his activities, head of the Russian Unity opposition parliamentary bloc Vladimir Isakov told a news conference here today.

He was supported by co-Chairman of the National Salvation Front Valeriy Smirnov, who said Khasbulatov has recently "built his political image" and expresses the will of the parliamentary majority.

Rally Calls For Presidency To Be Abolished

LD2108153993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1450 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Participants in the opposition rally in Lubyanka Square adopted an appeal to the Supreme Soviet of Russia. It expressed support for the activity of the Supreme Soviet, and demanded that an extraordinary Congress be convened, in order to abolish the institute of the presidency in Russia. During the rally, a small group of protestors tried to raise a red flag on the base of the monument to Dzerzhinskiy. However, militia employees did not allow them to do this.

Kozyrev Comments on Early Parliamentary Elections

LD2108132093

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 0945 GMT on 21 August, broadcasts its regular 15-minute Saturday program "Faces of Power" presented by People's Deputy Sergey Nosovets. Reception is good.

Nosovets criticizes the policies pursued by the Supreme Soviet in various spheres, especially its attempts to control the activities of the media. The program includes interviews with People's Deputies Mikhail Mityukov, Igor Bezrukov, Vladimir Varov, Mikhail Molostvov, Sergey Ivanov, and Igor Yerevin, some of which had been broadcast in the previous issues of "Faces of Power".

The above is followed by a four and one-half minute recorded interview with Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on the subject of early parliamentary elections.

Nosovets asks Kozyrev: Are you not worried by the fact that the present members of the Supreme Soviet see a revision of the current policy through laws and resolutions—a revision of the entire policy—as their main goal? At least, so it seems to me.

Kozyrev replies: I think one can agree with this diagnosis. It is another matter that its cause may lie in the fact that the majority of the deputies at present are afraid of and not ready for the changes, the need for which they used to understand in the past. That is, three years ago they took strategic decisions and were, to a considerable extent, a motive force in, for example, the election of Yeltsin [as the Russian president], and later in the formation of a more or less progressive government, and then in the 500 days program—naive and half-childish though I would call it, the general tendency was unmistakably orientated toward reform. This means that these people understood and felt the public mood—even during those elections that were conducted partly in the old way, and partly as free elections they sensed this public mood and they expressed it.

However, now they are obviously frightened with the scope of the changes. They probably imagined that the building of capitalism would be something like the building of communism—marching along a luminous path. But as the latter process turned out to be very difficult and soon found itself in a deadlock, so in this present case things cannot be done through mere voting in the Supreme Soviet, or anywhere else.

So it became clear that they lacked determination, faith, and political experience, and a self-seeking bustle started instead. Now these bodies have effectively turned into a strong braking mechanism, and many people in them are dancing to the tune of the National Salvation Front with its demagoguery, that has in fact transformed this body [Supreme Soviet] into its headquarters, in order to start

going back. Of course, this means a total disaster for the country, but these people have apparently exhausted their reserves of political action.

Therefore, when the question is asked today what use the new elections are going to be and won't a new corps of deputies be even worse than the present one, I am deeply convinced that it will not be worse. Why not? Because in any case people will arrive who will at least be associated with real public moods, and not that specific state of opinion that is currently condensed in the Supreme Soviet today—this is not a small thing, and it was a no small thing three years ago. They will express the wishes of the population, and this alone is good enough.

You see, already this will be a certain... [pauses, changes thought] Then, the public today is different, of course. After all, this is not the first election when any kind of demagoguery, any statements could pass because before there had only existed a monolithic unity of the [Communist] Party and the people—we have now forgotten this expression, but in fact this used to be our reality. So, anyone who will say anything at all without consulting his paper with a [Communist] Party speech, could claim laurels. The people are different now, they can now see nuances and so on.

Therefore, I do not think that the new Corps of Deputies will necessarily be an ideal one. It will not necessarily be composed solely of reform supporters; it will also give rise to problems. But it will certainly be charged with a new mood, it will correspond to the new situation, and for this reason I think the question of electing a new parliament, after all the changes that have taken place, is a question of the country's survival, if you like. Incidentally, talking about the Corps of Deputies—I did and still do respect quite a few of the deputies—for them this is a question simply of their moral worth. So to me it seems there is a need for new elections.

Gaydar Advocates Early Parliamentary Elections

LD2008131993 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1303 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—Yegor Gaydar, leader of the "Choice of Russia" political bloc, called on Friday the adoption of provisional constitutional acts on federal bodies of power and on elections of new parliament "a priority for resolving the political crisis."

Giving an interview to *ITAR-TASS* on the results of the bloc's executive committee meeting held on August 19, he said that participants in the "choice of Russia" bloc consider the above constitutional acts as feasible, since "member republics" of the Russian Federation virtually have no differences on them.

Gaydar noted that the approval of the bills on organs of power and on elections can be the first step for their adoption. Later, he envisages a collection of signatures to

hold a referendum on legitimizing the constitutional acts. "The support from Russian political forces, constructively-minded lawmakers and members of the federation will help to create a potential which can be used to resolve the crisis," he continued. Gaydar said that his sympathisers would support the president "to the extent to which he pursues the course of reforms".

Fedotov Interviewed on Resignation, Media Situation

LD2208211593 Moscow *Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian* 1800 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Interview with Mikhail Fedotov, resigned Russian minister of press and public information, by announcer Yevgeniy Kiselev in the Moscow studio; from the "Itogi" newscast—live]

[Text] [Kiselev] Today Mikhail Fedotov is in the "Itogi" studio. I'd like to ask you straight away, Mikhail Aleksandrovich: It is now two days since you made your [resignation] statement. Was it a political or merely a tactical step? Was it a calculated action or maybe just an emotional outburst?

[Fedotov] You know, I actually first announced that I would possibly resign at a news conference on 5 August, virtually immediately following the Supreme Soviet's adoption of the law on amendments to the law on mass media. I also said then that resignation would be a last resort in my struggle against these amendments in my capacity as press minister. If I put forward the possibility of resignation, I also staked my honor on it.

There is another aspect here. The fact is that, were I to remain in the ministerial post, I would have been obliged, being a law-abiding citizen and a professional lawyer, to implement this law. But I joined the Press Ministry only because we had a law on mass media we could be proud of. Now that, instead of this law, we are getting a draconian, antidemocratic and anticonstitutional law, I would find it immoral to head the ministry charged with implementing this law.

[Kiselev] So do you think there are no other ways to fight against these amendments? After all, we have the Constitutional Court, and another application can be filed there.

[Fedotov] Yes, indeed. I have already started preparing an application to the Constitutional Court, and I hope to hand the text of the application to the president in the next few days. But there are other means of struggle which I would not have been able to use if I remained a minister, but which I will be perfectly able to use as an unattached individual.

For instance, I now intend to urge all my fellow journalists in TV and radio broadcasting to call a political strike to protest against this law on amendments. It is probably the only way, the most radical means of struggle. I believe the strike has to be staged before Friday to give

the Supreme Soviet, before its Friday sitting, one last chance to change its mind before it commits itself to making such a decision, which would spell disaster for the situation in the country.

[Kiselev] Aren't you worried about a trend toward radicalization, not only in this but in many other domains as well? The political center is disappearing, and civilized forms of struggle are increasingly becoming a rarity.

[Fedotov] This is indeed the case, and I am very much worried by that. I am not a person of radical views; on the contrary, my views are moderate. You can say I am a proponent of compromise, and a lot of people do not like it, I realize that perfectly well. You know, it did not really come as a shock when I got a phone call this morning saying that shots had been fired from automatic weapons at my office at 0415 this morning.

[Kiselev] You don't mean your office in the center of Moscow, in Pushkinskaya Square?

[Fedotov] Oh yes I do. It was my office in the center of Moscow, in Pushkinskaya Square, and it was fired on from automatic weapons.

[Kiselev] How many bullets?

[Fedotov] Three. Thank God nobody was hurt. There was only one person on duty there. An investigating group is working there now. So radical measures are being used.

[Kiselev] So they are, and it looks as though the post of press and information minister is turning into a highly hazardous one.

[Fedotov] You know, it seems to me that if those amendments do come into force after all, it would be very advisable for the president to propose a certain compromise option. Namely, to abolish the Ministry of Press and Information and at the same time to abolish all supervising councils. Let mass media be independent. As a matter of fact, the whole idea of my work at the ministry boils down to this formula.

[Kiselev] So are these your final words of advice to the president in your capacity as press and information minister? As far as I understand, your resignation has not yet been accepted.

[Fedotov] No, I do not know anything about the president's or the prime minister's reaction. But regardless of that, I've made my decision, my moral choice.

[Kiselev] So you hope the president and the prime minister will endorse your resignation.

[Fedotov] I think so.

[Kiselev] Thank you, Mikhail Aleksandrovich.

Discusses Media Law Amendments

LD2108054793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1935 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Interview with Minister of Press and Information Mikhail Fedotov, prior to his resignation, by correspondent Yelena OZRINA at the Supreme Soviet building in Moscow on 20 August—recorded]

[Text] [OZRINA] You are the official representative of the president at the Supreme Soviet on these amendments. What is the chief significance of these amendments and their main thrust?

[Fedotov] Do you mean the president's amendments or the amendments made by the Supreme Soviet?

[OZRINA] I am talking of the presidential amendments that you presented to the Supreme Soviet.

[Fedotov] The aim of the amendments is to get rid of the anti-democratic potential that lies at the heart of the amendments to the law on the media, which were adopted by the Supreme Soviet—to eliminate this anti-democratic potential. And the aim of the presidential amendments is to ensure that, as a minimum, there is a balance of powers in the areas of TV and radio broadcasting, and, as a maximum, that there is no interference by the authorities in the work of the media. That is the chief idea of the amendments—that neither the legislative authorities nor the executive authorities should have any advantages in the media over one another and that the media themselves should be as independent as possible from all authorities, apart from the authority of the law, of course. That stands to reason. That is why the president wants, instead of the observation councils appointed by the legislative bodies of power...

[OZRINA, interrupting] By and large.

[Fedotov] No, not by and large. Practically...

[OZRINA, interrupting] There are two presidential representatives and several...

[Fedotov, interrupting] No, the law on the amendments adopted by the Supreme Soviet says clearly that the legislative bodies have the right to set up councils to ensure freedom of speech. They set up the councils. And they set them up the way they want. And they will naturally use them as censorship bodies. I have a very great deal of information about what is happening locally. Locally, the councils are already in existence.

[OZRINA] Yes, and, regrettably, spokesmen for the regions have said that although the law had not yet come into force, the observation councils had already been set up and were starting to operate.

[Fedotov] Yes, they are starting to operate. They are already sharing out air time. They are already deciding who is to be shown and who is not. Lists of desirable and undesirable speakers are being compiled. If that is not

censorship, I do not know what is. From the point of view of the law on the media, it is censorship.

Luckily, the esteemed deputies did not have the presence of mind to alter Article 3 of the law on the media, which defines censorship. So, they are contradicting themselves, and the entire contents of the law on amendments amount, essentially, to a revival of censorship. It is a very dangerous trend. And I can see from the way the voting has been going that the Supreme Soviet has made its decision not in favor of freedom for the media, but in favor of censorship and the grabbing and usurping of all the reins of power and authority over television and radio broadcasting, taking them into their own hands.

I do not know whether the federal council for ensuring freedom of speech should be the chief censor, with the Press Ministry at its beck and call performing the functions of a second censor, so to speak. I only know one thing. I will not be minister of press in those circumstances.

[Ozrina] Mikhail Aleksandrovich, to judge by the way the debate on the amendments sent in by the president is proceeding, all the amendments—some of which were adopted, and some not adopted by the committee on the media—are being rejected. I daresay, you were expecting such an outcome. They are being rejected under a very plausible excuse. It is said that this runs counter to freedom of the press and to censorship [as heard]. Is this true?

[Fedotov] The whole purpose of the game is to call freedom censorship and censorship freedom. And to call the censorship committees councils for ensuring freedom of speech. In actual fact, there is something else at stake here. It is that deputies do not like what is on television today. They do not like it. They do not like it when a deputy is shown with holes in his socks. They do not like it when deputies are shown snatching a bible from each other.

[Ozrina] They do not like it when deputies are shown voting on each other's behalf. And we can observe that frequently.

[Fedotov] Quite so. They do not like television presenters or journalists expressing criticism of a deputy or the deputies, or saying that they do not agree with the deputies on everything. The deputies want to have their own television. They want 100 percent coverage from Kaliningrad to the Kuriles. That is the spirit of this whole law on amendments. All of television is being concentrated in one set of hands. It is a very dangerous trend.

[Ozrina] What is your forecast for developments on this law, which is causing so much anguish and is of such concern to journalists, particularly television journalists?

[Fedotov] I believe that it will all come down to an ensuing struggle over the law on amendments once it has been adopted. That is, strike committees will be set up. Acts of civil disobedience will be carried out. To comply

with this law will mean to comply with a law on censorship. It runs counter to the convictions of our journalists. I cannot imagine very clearly how they are going to comply with this law. So, I think there is now going to be a fairly fierce struggle around the law once it is passed.

But I will not take part in this struggle because I have been brought up to be law-abiding. There was a democratic law on the media. And the minister of the press was a lawyer. He was the author of the law, one of the authors, and one of the ideologists of the law, if you like, and someone who believed that he was entitled and obliged to implement the law. It was an honor for me to implement the law. But when a law on freedom is turned into a law on censorship, I refuse to implement it.

Yeltsin Signs Decree on State Broadcasting Company

LD2008154493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1349 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on the all-Russia State Television and radio Broadcasting company to provide a legal framework for its activities, the president's press-service reported.

According to the decree, until the rights and obligations of the co-founders of the company are determined and the founding treaty signed, Oleg Poptsov will be the company's acting chairman and Anatoly Lysenko its director-general.

Shots Fired at Press, Information Ministry Building

LD2208111193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0957 GMT 22 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Palaria and Andrey Yarushin]

[Text] Moscow August 22 TASS—The Russian Ministry of the Press and Information was attacked and fired at last night. Investigation has been launched into the circumstances of the attack, the Ministry Press Bureau told ITAR-TASS.

The Russian Ministry of the Press and Information was attacked last night by unidentified people who fired at the building, using automatic firearms.

The shots fired at 4:30 hit the third floor of the building which hosts the offices of Mikhail Poltoranin and Mikhail Fedotov, the Police Department of Moscow's central administrative district where the ministry is located said.

Most Likely Act of 'Hooliganism'

LD2208132493 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 1258 GMT 22 Aug 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondents Andrey Palariya and Andrey Yarushin]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 22 Aug—The automatic weapons fire directed at the building of the Russian Press and Information Ministry during the night was most likely an act of "straightforward hooliganism," *ITAR-TASS* was told this morning by a representative of the Moscow Interior Ministry Directorate, who requested anonymity. He added that an investigation is now under way, and that is early to draw any definitive conclusions. It is highly unlikely that the shooting incident has any political background, he said, suggesting that it was just another example of the high crime rate in the Russian capital. [passage omitted]

Ilyushenko Says Corruption Probe Not Political

LD2008211693 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 2045 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—Chief of the control department of the president's administration, Alexey Ilyushenko, told *ITAR-TASS* that a question about a number of ministers suspected of abuse was being discussed at present.

Ilyushenko said that "corruption has penetrated into top echelons of power and if the situation remains unchanged the state will become criminal by itself."

Ilyushenko categorically denied allegations that an investigation concerning Vice-President Alexander Rutskoy and Prosecutor General Valentin Stepankov was being carried out for political reasons.

To cast aside suspicions of a biased approach, the commission of the president's administration for investigation into activities of the "Revival" Foundation and the government commission for the fight against corruption insist on an investigation into economic and financial activities of this foundation jointly with the parliament and the prosecutor's office.

Touching upon the vice-president's denial of charges brought against him, Ilyushenko said that "one should deny charges with documents in hand". He added that commissions in which he is taking part, have tangible evidence received not only from Yakubovskiy, but from many other sources after the taxation police confiscated a number of documents from banks and commercial companies and began an investigation into commercial activities of the "Revival" Foundation. "There are violations and documents will be submitted to the Moscow prosecutor's office," Ilyushenko said.

Explaining the reasons why a statement about Rutskoy's and Stepankov's illegal actions was made at a news conference, Ilyushenko said: "We have come to the point

when we are overloaded with documents which should be sent to be investigated, but instead, we get into a vicious circle, realizing that the prosecutor general cannot be trusted. We have no legitimacy to carry out an investigation into these affairs once the prosecutor's office is headed by such a man. Therefore, we decided to make our findings public and draw public attention to them."

Discusses Anti-Corruption Commission's Work

LD2208053093 Moscow *Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian* 1823 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Interview with Aleksey Ilyushenko, head of the Control Directorate in the president's administration, by Aleksandr Shkirando; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shkirando] Aleksey Nikolayevich, it would appear that the sensitive work that your commission is doing has caused a certain tension in the higher echelons of power. What specific task do the members of your commission face?

[Ilyushenko] The commission was set up with the aim of finding out who from among the top officials is corrupt. The first findings, which were mentioned at the news conference, and some that have still not been mentioned prove that this commission was not set up in vain, since a situation has now emerged in Russia in which everything has to be accounted for. It certainly all began with the statement of the vice president, who said that corruption was flourishing. And when we started looking into this, it turned out that, in effect, there was actually an element of truth in those words. As it turns out, however, this is happening not only in the executive branch; all branches of power are unfortunately involved.

[Shkirando] That is, the two branches of power, both the executive and the legislature?

[Ilyushenko] Certainly. And so, what you have just said, that this has caused tension, yes, certainly, and that is a bad thing, because the fact that our work has become known, that it has entered the public domain, as it were, gives me, personally, no pleasure. We simply had to do what we did, I mean the news conference, because we had reached the stage when all the materials—and I understand this very well—had to be passed to the law-enforcement bodies. But as the documents show, we are unable to pass on the materials we have, while those officials continue to remain in office. And this causes me, personally...[pauses] well, this is simply very sad for our country today.

[Shkirando] Of course, in this situation you cannot give all the names?

[Ilyushenko] First, we cannot provide all of this, and second, I realize absolutely clearly that this has to be investigated very seriously, and the most terrible thing is

that we are not doing anything supernatural, as they are now trying to present it. We have just taken what is lying on the surface, that is, if previously we spoke about the fight against crime, then by all accounts, we have not really done anything with it, I mean the fight against crime in the top echelons of power. Since the documents that were shown by Makarov...[pauses] they are simply terrible, and they really need to be investigated. I think that both the contract we are talking about, the one that concerns the vice president, and the telephone conversations, which, by the way, were recorded not by members of the commission, need to be investigated, very seriously investigated. This was the main theme of our news conference. That is, we are ready to hand the documents over so that people can look at them and figure out what this means, to convince themselves that what we are doing is correct. We have sought the assistance of specialists, who have given their findings on all these documents, on all these conversations, and so on.

[Shkirando] It is quite clear that the work that is under way is not at all easy. In this situation, how are you coping with the difficulties and dangers that naturally arise in your work? If they do arise, do they not hinder the objectivity of your commission's findings?

[Ilyushenko] Yes, that is a very good question. The point is that there certainly are difficulties. As for how we cope with it, well, you know, I repeat that this work gives no particular pleasure to any of the members of the commission. I say again, attempts are currently being made to present this as sensational. It is not sensational; it is plain, ordinary, painstaking work that we have to do. We have to finish with it, but by way of investigation, having passed all the material to the law-enforcement bodies, namely to the procuracy of the city of Moscow. But certainly before that, the president, as head of our state, must receive this material—and he has received it—and must make some decision on it. It was stated at the meeting of the interdepartmental commission that the question would be raised. By the way, everybody wants glasnost, and so this question about the procurator general will be raised publicly at the Supreme Soviet. An appeal from the president will, again, be sent to the Constitutional Court, that is, no one is trying to present our work—at least we do not think so—as the work of some secret threesome, or fivesome. On the contrary, we are gathering this material only to deal with it publicly. As concerns statements that the commission is using some sort of political methods in its work, there is nothing of the kind. We raised the question—and this was stated at the news conference—with regard to members of the government, primarily with regard to members of the government, but when such documents fall into our hands, we are obliged to give them some kind of assessment.

[Shkirando] By the way, following the news conference that was held literally just recently, on the results of the work of the interdepartment commission for fighting crime and corruption, charges of forgery and twisting the

facts were made against you—I do not mean you personally, but against the commission. Do you clearly possess some irrefutable information?

[Ilyushenko] Well, here I have to say that, in the first place, if we are talking about the contract concerning the vice president, then this contract is certified by a notary. What does certified by a notary mean? It means that a notary, not here in Russia but in Canada, has seen the original of the contract, and on the basis of the original, has certified the copy that we have. That is the first point.

Second, concerning the conversations that we have, there specialists have determined that there has been no rigging of the cassette tapes, that is the first thing, and the second thing is that the voices actually belong to Stepankov and Yakubovskiy. I think raising the question in general terms is sufficient for now. Certainly, it is necessary to continue investigations into this, but we will no longer deal with it. The law-enforcement bodies, whom we will provide with all these documents, conversations, and the rest, will deal with it, and I think that they will make their own decisions. I do not think our task lies in condemning or clearing anyone. Our task lies in understanding that this really exists, that this corresponds to reality at the present stage. I understand very well that there might be a forgery, there might be anything, but I say again, when you get a document certified by a notary, then this starts to give rise to serious doubts. And I think that it needs very serious investigation, because it concerns not just anyone, but the second highest ranking person in our state. The same goes for the recordings. At present, we are investigating a number of government ministries, and after the documentation has been obtained and studied obtained, I think our proposals will be given to the president.

[Shkirando] But we are clearly concerned not only with the second highest ranking person in the state—I mean Aleksandr Vladimirovich [Rutskoy]—we are concerned with a broader range, but it is the name of Rutskoy that appears most often in the mass media.

[Ilyushenko] Well, you know, it seems to me that this is happening because in the political situation that has emerged in the country today, it is Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy who evokes the most interest among the press. Why is the press not interested in a number of other ministers who have been removed from office? Olkhovikov was recently removed from office, a deputy minister of economics. That was also reported, but it did not interest anyone. Everything depends on the figure that can evoke the interest of the press, and not on how serious one or another piece of evidence is.

[Shkirando] But at the same time, you said at the news conference that the situation that has emerged, not only in the top echelons of power, but also at the middle level, also requires maximum work?

[Ilyushenko] It is our common opinion that we have now come up against the system, not against individual

ministers, deputy ministers, or the like. We have come up against a system that we already understand, in principle. We understand how it functions. We understand how it protected itself. And well, you are quite rightly raising the question of the necessity of combatting not specific individuals but the system itself. The system is already beginning to take shape, I should say, successfully in our country and that just does not give us any cause for joy. Unfortunately, if things continue like this...

[Shkirando, interrupting] You mean that it is connected with corruption?

[Ilyushenko] Yes, if things continue like this, Russia may well turn into some kind of banana republic in which there are coups, corruption, a complete lack of understanding between the branches of power, and so on. That may become a way of life, based, above all, on the system of corruption of the bodies of power.

[Shkirando] Well on this point, I would like to know, do you, or the law-enforcement bodies in general, have any kind of elegant system for seriously fighting this evil?

[Ilyushenko] We are not the law enforcement bodies. I think that handing over this material to the procuracy of the city of Moscow, handing over our findings, will make it possible to arrive at a system.

[Shkirando] But we are not just talking about Moscow?

[Ilyushenko] No, it is widespread and very deep, very deep, but we have to start somewhere, and for the moment, we have to begin with Moscow. That is what I think, in any case regarding those documents. And then we have to proceed further. But what we are dealing with today is primarily the foreign economic activity of the state, because it is hard to see how millions have disappeared abroad through this Rebirth Foundation, that is, millions of dollars, which have still not been returned to Russia. In spite of this, today, even after that news conference, no one, either in the Supreme Soviet or in the procuracy, has raised the question of investigating the financial and economic activity of this foundation, because it is an immense organization, with banks, joint ventures, and so on.

[Shkirando] Set up, by the way, for charitable purposes, as we know.

[Ilyushenko] Yes, yes. That is, no one has raised this question. Everyone is saying that an audit is under way. But the documents that we have, which I think we will soon be presenting to the procuracy, bear out that not everything is in order. Say, even such a simple example, that the firm Seabeco is actually on the premises of this foundation. That is the first thing. Second, there are those \$20 million that were transferred to buy children's food—also, a mass of questions, unfortunately. We can say today that according to the material of the Interior Ministry, 50 percent of this food did not come to our country, it went to Austria, with subsequent purchases of

something. But as far as I know, neither the money nor the food have been returned. This simply has to be investigated. It is difficult to give any final answers today, but it has to be investigated.

[Shkirando] And there is a lot of work?

[Ilyushenko] Yes, that is not the final word, every day more and more documents come in, and if anyone thinks that we, the members of the commission, the five of us, go running around after these documents, they are very wrong. The documents fall into our hands by themselves, and this also tells you something.

Government Members' Activities Reported 19 Aug
PM2008134993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Excerpts] Meetings, Trips, Conferences

Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets, Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha, and a substantial number of leaders of ministries and departments arrive in Vladivostok this evening. A conference is planned for tomorrow with the leaders of local authorities.

Following the traditional roundtable meeting with journalists, First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko planned to have a conversation with Mrs. Davis, president of the Women's World Banking System.

Vice Premier Boris Fedorov included in his work schedule a conversation with Danish Taxation Minister Mr. Stavard and also a meeting of the credit commission.

After meeting with representatives of the regional press on privatization issues Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays also attended a Credit Commission meeting.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov planned to hold a conference on the question of the construction of a Russian republic treatment and diagnosis center in Bryansk and, after lunch, a meeting of the interdepartmental commission on social problems of servicemen and members of their families.

First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov and Vice Premiers Sergey Shakhrai and Aleksandr Shokhin are continuing their leave.

Documents

A Russian Government directive allocates funds to the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to aid the victims of natural disasters. The document instructs the Russian State Committee for Emergencies to buy material and technical resources to the sum of 1.5 billion rubles [R] on the strength of state credits for delivery to Kyrgyzstan.

Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin has adopted measures to implement the 15 December 1992 edict of the Russian Federation president "On the Creation of a

'Russian Germans' Fund." A decree signed by him contains instructions to the republic Justice Ministry to duly register the "Russian Germans" fund. The cabinet head directed the Finance Ministry to give the fund financial support.

The Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government adopted a decree on the composition of the Russian Federation Commission on UNESCO Affairs. It is headed by Boris Saltykov, Russian Federation minister of science and technical policy. The commission includes, among others, I. Antonov, director of the Pushkin State Museum of Art; choreographer V. Vasilyev; V. Voznyak, chairman of the State Committee for Chernobyl; artist I. Glazunov; Academician A. Gonchar; V. Danilov-Danilyan, Russian Federation minister for the protection of the environment and natural resources; writer S. Zalygin; former world chess champion A. Karpov, and M. Fedotov, Russian Federation press and information minister.

Agreements

The United States will allocate from 1994 through 1997 \$400 million for involvement in joint space projects with Russia. The figure was confirmed once again during a working meeting between a NASA delegation and representatives of the Russian Space Agency in Moscow. The meeting discussed major joint programs, such as the creation of a modern space station and a flight by a Russian cosmonaut on the Shuttle. The documents agreed during the consultations are to be signed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and U.S. Vice President Albert Gore during their meeting in Washington at the end of August.

Decisions Being Prepared

Work will be finished by 1 September on an arms program, Oleg Soskovets, first vice premier of the Russian Government, said at a conference in Kosmomol'sk-na-Amure with the city's leaders. He said the program will in all likelihood envisage an increase in the state order to enterprises producing precision high-technology products, such as fighters and nuclear submarines. [passage omitted]

Social Protection

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a directive the other day allocating R10 billion to support existing and create new accommodations for invalids. A check for R3 million was given to the All-Russian Society of Invalids, which celebrated its fifth anniversary the other day, by Lyubov Khrapylina, deputy minister of social protection.

The All-Russian Society of Invalids currently has 1.4 million members. [passage omitted]

20 Aug

PM2008151793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Text] [Passage omitted] Meetings, Trips, Conferences

[passage omitted]

A zonal conference is being held in Vladivostok today; a large government commission has specially arrived for it. It includes Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets, and Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha.

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko has participated in a sitting of the "Russia's Choice" election campaign bloc.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays is also planning to come to the same sitting of the "Russia's Choice" election campaign bloc. Furthermore, he has held a conference on the privatization program for 1993. For the evening his work schedule included a conference with Mrs. Karolina Kunert [name as transliterated], a representative of the Austrian Kredit Anstalt bank.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov has met with Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Shushkevich.

First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov and Vice Premiers Sergey Shakhrai and Aleksandr Shokhin are still on vacation.

Documents

Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has signed an Edict on Priority Measures To Implement the Federation Treaty in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). The Russian Federation Government-Council of Ministers and the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) Government have been instructed to elaborate a Program for the Socioeconomic Development of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). [passage omitted]

Decision Being Prepared

Russian President Boris Yeltsin may in the near future sign the Edict "On Saving Energy as the Basis of Russia's Energy Policy."

What Has Been Said

For me, the parliament no longer exists, First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko stated. While there are 50-60 people present at Supreme Soviet sessions, and each of them votes for seven people, it is impossible to resolve a single question with such a parliament. If the Federation Council could be turned from a consultative organ into the upper chamber of the future parliament, all political battles would end.

Defense Sector Commission Set Up at Security Council

MK2108112093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 21 Aug 93 p 5

[Mikhail Lashch report: "Security Council's New Commission To Coordinate Defense Sector's Operation"]

[Text] Although following Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov's application to resign, the Security Council has for a second time in the past 18 months found itself in a state of complete uncertainty, its restructuring is in full swing. In the near future, a number of interdepartmental commissions are to be set up at the Security Council's staff to supervise virtually all areas regarding the protection of Russia's security. The president has already made a decision in principle to create an interdepartmental commission for scientific and technical matters concerning the defense industry. Also approved yesterday was a package of documents to regulate the body's activity.

The commission's sponsors had to overcome a whole slew of parochial ambitions. "Some agencies see attempts to coordinate their activity as an infringement on their sovereignty," a Security Council staffer pointed out in a conversation with your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent. Nonetheless, it has transpired that those vying for greater influence in the military-industrial sector include the Defense Ministry, the Russian Defense Industry Committee, and a number of other agencies. This is why the chiefs of the Defense Ministry categorically recommended that this working body should not be set up, seeing it as a potential rival. According to Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and his first deputy, Andrey Kokoshin, one possible consequence of creating a new structure at the Security Council will be the dispersion of management functions with regard to the state-owned part of the military-industrial sector.

Other agencies concerned, particularly the Russian Defense Industry Committee, did not sound so categorical and suggested that the commission be set up at the Council of Ministers, not as part of the Security Council's staff. The reason the Defense Industry Committee cited to substantiate its stance was that otherwise the Security Council would have to handle functions that were extrinsic to it.

The question as to who will head the commission has so far remained open. According to preliminary information, however, Mikhail Maley, presidential adviser for conversion matters, looks likely to be proposed as candidate for the post of commission chairman with the rank of minister. KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts assess the former member of the Silayev Cabinet of Ministers as an experienced statesman, who has his own concept of reform in the military-industrial sector and can draw on his considerable experience in government.

Following the 2 August presidential edict on setting up the commission, intensive efforts were taken to draw up a regulation on the body and to define its functions. Yuriy Andreyev, chief of the presidential conversion adviser's secretariat, said in an interview with your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that the commission will deal with a whole range of problems regarding the military-industrial sector. "The commission should become an arbiter in maintaining the balance of interests," Yuriy Andreyev stressed. What may be pinpointed as the newly created commission's chief objective is the determination of priorities for the development of defense industries, the production of weapons, and the progress of conversion. In addition, setting up the new working agency will give more weight to the Security Council's recommendations in the decisionmaking process by Russia's top political leadership.

Strategic Metals Smuggled From Submarine Construction Plant

LD2108125693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Video report by correspondent Kiselev; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Northern Machine-Building Enterprise is the largest plant in the world producing nuclear submarines. The enterprise enjoys top secret status, with extremely strict security controls. But, in spite of this, since the beginning of this year, several workers have managed to smuggle nearly 90 kilograms of Tungsten from the plant. The tungsten electrodes are used in welding the component parts of the submarines, and are issued to workers in minute quantities, literally in grams. The total cost of the stolen tungsten—in today's market prices—is 60 million rubles. Seventy-three kilograms of this strategic raw material was uncovered in one of the workers' flats. The criminals managed to sell—probably to the Baltic states—nearly 20 kilograms.

Last year, 430 kilograms of Cerium—also a strategic material, worth 20 million rubles—were stolen from the territory of the Northern Machine-Building Enterprise.

Official Calls For Immediate Raising of Komsomolets Sub

LD2208190293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] The sunken nuclear-powered submarine Komsomolets should be raised to the surface immediately. Yevgeniy Selivanov, one of the members of the government commission investigating the circumstances of the sinking of the Komsomolets, made this statement in a speech at the Investment in the Russian North conference in Arkhangelsk. He said that should there be a radiation leak, the contaminated zone could encompass the whole area along the Gulf Stream from the Norwegian Sea to the mid-Atlantic. Were this to happen, the region's wealthy fish stocks would become inedible.

Selivanov estimates that the cost of work to raise it would be \$200 billion. However, the value of the materials from which the submarine is made could compensate for the expenditure.

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Addresses Conference on Constitution, Democracy

PM2308092193 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 21 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed report on "fragments" of speech by Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov at conference "In Defense of the Constitutional System, Parliamentary Order, and Democracy in Russia" in Moscow on 20 August: "R. Khasbulatov: Victory Becomes Tragedy"]

[Text] Around 500 representatives of parties and movements from various regions of Russia are taking part in a conference "In Defense of the Constitutional System, Parliamentarianism, and Democracy in Russia" in Moscow. We publish some fragments of the speech delivered at this conference by R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

The all-Russia conference in defense of the constitutional system, parliamentarianism, and democracy in Russia is taking place amid an alarming atmosphere.

Destructive right-wing radical political forces that have a crucial influence on the executive and its head have drastically stepped up their activity. Overt disregard is being expressed for the current Constitution, along with an intention to change the existing system of power and state order and to eliminate representative organs of power—the parliament and soviets at all levels.

Unconstitutional institutions are at work and there are plans afoot to set up another unconstitutional structure—the Federation Council. War is being declared on everyone who favors the strictly constitutional means of implementing political, economic, and legal (including constitutional) reforms.

It has gotten to the point where the head of the executive is usurping the right to single-handedly decide what the Russian state should be like, how its citizens should live and by what rules, and what kind of society should be built. One person, reflecting the interests of narrow political circles, wants to decide Russia's very future.

I would like to say a few words about the president's press conference yesterday. It was unprecedentedly cynical, particularly with regard to the Supreme Soviet. The assessments of the Russian parliament manifested not only the president's failure to understand the very essence of present-day democratism, but also his lack of basic tact and his devotion to the leadership cult thinking of the Bolshevik pioneers and their favorite method of suppressing any form of dissent. His attitude

toward the parliament as the supreme legislative and representative organ is most typical. He voices insulting opinions of it although it was the Supreme Soviet that backed Yeltsin when he was just emerging as a state politician. It is a question of the very parliament that created the institution of the presidency in Russia and made Yeltsin the first president. The parliament that backed him as long as he expressed the interests of the people and democratic transformations. The parliament that even now is holding out its hand for agreement and constructive cooperation.

It turns out, according to the president, that the main result of the two years since the events of August 1991 is the fact that society has supposedly realized that this parliament is superfluous. That is a sample for you of how the head of the executive sees our society's urgent problems, how he sees the essence of democracy, and how he takes our people's sentiments into consideration.

We all remember the people taking heart two years ago. The hopes of seeing an improvement in our lives seemed real. It was thought that we had once and for all escaped totalitarian authority—unlimited power for individual rulers: leaders, general secretaries, and so on. We hoped that true people's power, democracy, and freedom of the individual would gradually be asserted. We expected economic development to be dynamized, incentives for effective labor increased, and the population's level of prosperity raised rather than worsened. And, of course, we all strove to implement profound economic reforms in the interests of the people.

Regrettably our hopes did not materialize. The feeble shoots of democracy are threatened with the worst form of dictatorship—the selfish, illiterate, semicriminal kind. One view of events is being imposed on public opinion even more keenly, dissent is being suppressed, the mass media, particularly television, are being bribed, and political censorship and political investigation [politicheskiy sysk] inculcated.

The country's economy is fast being destroyed and production is falling. Speculative criminal elements who have done nothing useful for the country have rapidly gotten unimaginably rich by impoverishing the majority of the people. Instead of the promised end to stagnation and crisis phenomena the country has been impelled into the abyss of most profound crisis, the like of which has not been seen before.

The undistinguished policy has jeopardized the people's life itself, generating a host of conflicts, including those involving bloodshed. The aggressive confrontational policy pursued by the executive and its head is jeopardizing civic peace and may cause a very mighty social explosion that would spell catastrophe not only for Russia but also for the whole world.

The August victory has thus developed into tragedy for the country and the people owing to incompetent ambitious politicians.

The issue of saving democracy and freedom in Russia has now taken center stage. This question is now no less and maybe even more acute than in 1991. And that is to a considerable extent due to the fact that the shift away from democracy to a new form of dictatorship is being perpetrated by those people who have entered the arena of political life and capitalized on the slogans of democracy and freedom.

Life has shown that the slogans of democracy and freedom have been used as a cover to attain quite different aims. That has emerged very obviously of late.

To use the president's language, proradical forces are now dealing the main blow to representative organs of power—soviets at all levels, primarily the Supreme Soviet and the Congress of People's Deputies.

In effect there is no speech by the president in which he does not quite uninhibitedly, flagrantly, and without precedent pronounce anathema on the Supreme Soviet and express a desire to get rid of it by any means. Various options, varying stratagems, and new institutional formations are being envisaged in order to get rid of the democratic parliament. Moreover, it is not only a matter of an attack on the current members of the representative authority, the intention is to get rid of a strong representative power altogether.

Careful analysis of the situation shows that Russia is seeing a repetition of precisely those events that led to the breakup of the Soviet Union and the parliament is, as before, the focus of these events. But we must not, we should not repeat the tragic mistakes made previously.

Defense of the constitutional system, parliamentarianism, and democracy is not only a matter for state institutions, but also for all society and every aware citizen. The number of people, parties, and movements who realize the need for this is now growing. And this conference is evidence of that.

It is particularly gratifying that a movement in support of parliamentarianism has emerged and is developing in Russia. Movements like this exist in many countries and play a great role in developing democracy and boosting the prestige of the representative power.

We think that the movement in support of parliamentarianism will cooperate actively with the Supreme Soviet, its committees and commissions, the Parliamentary Center, and the Institute of Parliamentarianism.

I want to say a few words about the Institute of Parliamentarianism. This is the first time that such an institute has been set up in our country and its task is to generalize the experience of the Russian parliament, elaborate problems pertaining to the theory, practice, and history of parliamentarianism in Russia, make creative use of world experience, develop international links with similar foreign centers, and propagandize ideas of parliamentarianism in society.

You are the source of a new public movement and I would like to hope that it will have a great future.

Willing To Ensure Elections for Yeltsin

LD2008143093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Aug—"I have withdrawn my call for the simultaneous reelections of the parliament and the president. But if the president still wants to put himself up for reelection, we will ensure all conditions for the elections to be held in strict accordance with the law," stated Ruslan Khasbulatov, the head of the Russian Supreme Soviet, in a conversation with journalists during an interval between the sessions of the conference "In Defense of the Constitutional System, Parliamentary Order, and Democracy in Russia."

Addressing the conference earlier, Ruslan Khasbulatov said that it was proceeding in an alarming situation, when right-wing radical forces with influence on the government and its head have sharply stepped up their profile. Having negatively appraised yesterday's news conference by the president, Ruslan Khasbulatov said that even now the parliament was offering to cooperate, and was unwilling to pick up the gauntlet of war. Speaking of the situation in the country, the head of the parliament noted that production was declining and that criminal structures were getting richer.

Ryabov Declares Support for Federation Council

LD2008160493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1529 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondents Lyudmila Yermakova, Yuriy Philippov]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—Deputy Parliament Chairman Nikolay Ryabov has declared himself to be a supporter of the earliest possible establishment of the Federation Council.

Ryabov told journalists today that the parliament speaker and part of the parliament leadership have taken the course for the implementation of the slogan "give all power to people's councils" which actually implies complete "Bolshevization" of the country. In Ryabov's opinion, such tactics are in direct contravention to democratic processes in Russia.

Ryabov expressed the opinion that a resolution on the establishment of the Federation Council called upon to remove political tension in the country would be signed by the Russian president in the near future.

First Deputy Speaker Voronin on State Budget*MK2108100093 Moscow FEDERATSIYA in Russian
21 Aug 93 p 1*

[Interview with Yuriy Voronin, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, by FEDERATSIYA; place and date not given; in "Appraisals and Causes" column: "The Truth About the Budget"]

[Excerpts] At the end of July the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet adopted a budget with a deficit of 22.4 trillion rubles [R], or 50 percent of expenditure. Also well known is the Supreme Soviet's criticism of the approval of the country's budget with such a deficit level as compared with the government's revenues and spending proposals envisioning a deficit of R11.9 trillion (30.2 percent of expenditure). Each citizen of Russia today must know the truth about the country's budget. What is this truth? Our correspondent put this question to Yuriy Mikhaylovich Voronin, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, doctor of economics.

[Voronin] The level of the collapse of the economic reform according to the IMF scenario has reached a point where the government is called upon to take urgent measures to protect Russia's population from poverty and starvation.

In 1992 prices grew 30 times. In 1993, according to preliminary expert estimates, they will grow by another 10 to 20 times. This means that the price increase to the 1993 level will constitute 300 to 360 times. At the same time, the population's income will increase, according to Economics Ministry estimates, by less than 100 times. With this correlation of prices and incomes the majority of the population is doomed to poverty. The situation in other spheres is no better—in the defense sector and especially in addressing the social problems of the military, also in science, in higher education, investment policy, and so on.

In the run-up to the Russia-wide referendum last April and the constitutional conference, the president and the government of the country adopted a whole package of edicts and decrees aimed at providing state support to the wide strata of the country's population.

Expert appraisals show that to implement them only this year the government will have to spend an additional sum of more than R7 trillion from the budget. [passage omitted]

[FEDERATSIYA] Are these expenditures really called for?

[Voronin] Yes, they are. But even they do not cover the entire needs of the population and the state's expenses to maintain those guarantees and rights that have been proclaimed by the Russian Constitution.

The truth is that neither the president nor the government had the resources to finance the measures announced in the course of their propaganda campaign.

The position of the Russian Supreme Soviet on this question has been and remains principled.

The state budget has no right to shift the burden of paying for economic and political mistakes on the country's population.

The state budget must ensure the citizens the financing of all these urgent spending programs.

The government's course toward a tough financial policy has eventually come into conflict with its obligations to fulfill the president's edicts and even its own decrees.

This is precisely why the Supreme Soviet, in adopting last May a law on the budget, had to take into account the president's and the government's pledges to the people, and, in addition to the government's proposals, to increase expenditures for social programs by R0.5 trillion, for state and investment financing programs (including on Chernobyl) by R2.6 trillion, social security programs for the military by R1.7 trillion, and other expenditures.

[FEDERATSIYA] But Yuriy Mikhaylovich, it not only the level of expenditures that predetermines the state budget deficit.

[Voronin] Yes, the other side of the coin is made up by the level of its revenues, the government's ability to create such economic conditions in the country that would contribute to stimulating entrepreneurial activity and raising on this foundation the efficiency of production and budget revenues.

The importance of making correct budget revenue projections consists in that their lowering in the process of consideration and adoption of the country's budget for the next year can have catastrophic consequences in the social sphere, in the economy, and in politics.

Unfortunately, the process of concealing revenues in the recent period has acquired a systematic character and reached a critical level. [passage omitted]

The lowering of revenue levels, which does not take into account the real state of production and price fluctuations, leads to subsequent overfulfillment of budget revenue targets via inflationary monetary pumping, which again provokes price rises and impoverishment of the people.

[FEDERATSIYA] How does the government determine the requisite budget revenue levels for 1993?

[Voronin] This year the 1992 situation is being repeated. In January 1993 the Russian Government presented budget estimates in which revenues were defined based on the premise that the industrial production volume will be falling but at an insignificant level—by 7 percent compared with last year.

This slowdown in the rate of production decline was supposed to restrain price growth at 200 percent compared to the previous year. In this connection it was proposed to limit overall budget expenditures to R14.2 trillion with revenues at R9.8 trillion. The budget deficit was to be R4.4 trillion, or 30.9 percent.

[FEDERATSIYA] Were these projections justified?

[Voronin] No! Reports show that the government's estimates are far from reality.

Miscalculations in determining the rate of production slowdown lead to a lowering of the overall index of wholesale prices and an underestimation of real inflation rates.

In this economic instability, budget revenues are formed mainly via price increases. [passage omitted]

Like last year, life has confirmed the correctness of the Supreme Soviet's position and its calculations. Between January and July 1993 the volume of industrial output fell by 18 percent instead of the 7 percent forecast for the year, while the price growth index was 8.25 times compared to the same time last year.

On 14 May 1993 the Supreme Soviet adopted a law on the republican budget for 1993 obligating the government to adjust revenues and expenditures so as to take into account the rate of inflation and provide the requisite safety nets.

[FEDERATSIYA] When did the government make the corresponding adjustments?

[Voronin] Only at the end of July 1993! But that time again the Supreme Soviet had to turn down a number of proposals made by the government, which in fact meant closing budget holes at the expense of the population, and therefore to restore spending programs related to the government's earlier decisions.

[FEDERATSIYA] Could you give a few examples to illustrate which of the government's proposals were rejected?

[Voronin] The Supreme Soviet turned down proposals by the Russian Federation Finance Ministry on introducing additional duties and taxes infringing the interests of the taxpayers and ultimately discouraging entrepreneurial activity and the effectiveness of social production. [passage omitted]

Also rejected was the government's proposal to reduce the budget deficit by soliciting foreign credits in the amount proposed by the government. In fact that would mean raising revenues by building up debt.

Also discarded was the government's plan to save budget spending by suspending the indexation of minimum wage levels.

Moreover, the Supreme Soviet increased the level of subsidies in the agro-industrial complex by R133 billion

against the level proposed by the Finance Ministry; for social and cultural programs by R500 billion; science, by R433 billion; state and investment programs by R2.5 trillion; and defense programs by R1.6 trillion.

All these factors resulted in the budget deficit's coming to R22.3 trillion and not R11.9 trillion as proposed by the government. Nonetheless, its targets for the first time since the beginning of this year reflect a true picture of the collapse of the economic reform and the state's growing financial obligations to society.

The role of the Finance Ministry at present is confined to distributing the share of the revenues which it has raised for itself but which has fallen compared with 1992. Yet no one is talking about ways of increasing revenue. And they can only be increased by boosting the efficiency of production—there is no other way.

[FEDERATSIYA] What position on this issue is maintained by Finance Minister B.G. Fedorov?

[Voronin] The impression is that he has decided to present himself as a fighter for a unique path of development for Russia, based on a strict fulfillment of IMF recommendations. If Fedorov simply had a position of his own or if he tried to substantiate or explain it to his colleagues and other state departments, that would be normal. Unfortunately, he took a different path, that of blocking state decisions, including parliamentary decisions. And this constitutes a violation of the law with all the ensuing consequences.

It seems that the approach should be different. It is necessary to base economic activity on unrestrained support for production (along with the regions) and preservation of the existing production forces without allowing them to disintegrate (together with the regions). In these conditions, the role of the state in regulating socioeconomic processes should apparently be considerably broader than now.

The logic here is fairly simple. Priority should be given to public production, social stability, and the formation of a market infrastructure, ensuring the best possible conditions for that. Including in the financial sphere—to prevent the appearance of strong demand limitations, a crisis of payment and sales, and a shortage of investment resources. [passage omitted]

More on Khasbulatov, Rutskoy Meeting With Party Leaders

PM2008145193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 93 First Edition p 1

[Andrey Sharapov report: "Parliament Won't Be Destroyed"]

[Text] Representatives of political parties and public movements came to the White House on 18 August. Opening the meeting, Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan

Khasbulatov noted that the very ethos of parliamentarianism presupposes a genetic link with the most diverse political movements in society. Mainly thanks to the work of parliamentarians, as expressed, in particular, in the holding of the All-Russia Economic Conference and the Declaration of National Accord on Economic Reform, the desire to cast society back to the prereform period has subsided.

Outside the Supreme Soviet, Ruslan Khasbulatov stressed, democracy is impossible; other, unconstitutional formations cannot replace parliament. The attempts to denigrate and split the body of deputies give rise to fears in this regard. There are reports that people have been given the job of "getting at" deputies in their regions. However, people's mood has drastically changed, and politicians who ignore this could be making a big political miscalculation. Attempts to destroy parliament, a parliament armed only with the Constitution, the laws, and concern for the fate of the fatherland, do not meet with understanding among the Russians.

The situation in the runup to the anniversary of the August events is also worrying. A number of dangerous predictions are being realized: Some organs of the mass media are feeling anxiety, which they are in no hurry to scotch. One cannot help be surprised by the irrational nature of certain decisions by the supreme executive authority, those, for example, directed against the general prosecutor, the investigation of whose actions has been placed in the hands of... the Moscow prosecutor.

In journeying around the country, Ruslan Khasbulatov stressed, you feel particularly clearly that the main thing needed today is the solution of economic problems based on absolute compliance with the laws passed by parliament. In this regard, a special law on the accountability of senior officials for nonfulfillment of legislative norms should perhaps be adopted.

Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy also took part in the meeting. In his opinion, we are contending with a crisis of the state system. This does not go down well with the majority of Russians today. Analysis shows that 85 percent of the tenets of the main political parties of Russia coincide, and it essential to consolidate on that base. Aleksandr Rutskoy noted that there is no other country where the president could violate so many laws and the actual Constitution it could go down in the Guinness Book of Records. I am not against the president and have never tried to kick the chair from under him, the vice president said, I am only seeking to ensure that people enjoy quiet lives rather than being degraded and begging for a living. The megacrisis has reached the point where housing, education, and health care are becoming beyond people's reach. That cannot be accepted. Aleksandr Rutskoy supported the idea that parties and movements should meet one another regularly and "synchronize their watches."

The White House brought together on that day the broadest spectrum of politicians—democrats, centrists, and patriots. However, there was one abiding theme to all the speeches: The splitting of society and the destruction of the democratic principles of dyarchy as exercised in the form of the soviets cannot be allowed. A representative of the Congress of Russian Communities reminded people that 17.4 percent of all Russians live outside Russia, and it is the state's duty to look after them.

Regional Affairs

Further on Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's Far East Visit

Views Fight Against Inflation

LD2008182093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1421 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Vostokov]

[Text] Khabarovsk, 20 Aug—The current sharp exacerbation of the dyarchy crisis in Russia is not of a general, deeply ingrained nature, said Viktor Chernomyrdin. The Russian prime minister was speaking here today at a meeting with leaders of enterprises, organizations, and local bodies of power in the Far East.

The prime minister sees the fight against inflation and a consistent reduction in the budget deficit and volume of money supply, as the government's main tasks at the current stage.

Today, he said, inflation is hovering around 20 percent, and one can imagine what will happen if the implementation of the budget—approved by the Supreme Soviet with a deficit of 23 trillion rubles [as received]—actually comes about. Therefore, Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed, the government will be guided by the president's recommendations and by the calculations presented to the Supreme Soviet in the president's budget message.

The prime minister announced that in the near future the government will prepare a special resolution with specific measures to help the economy of the far east.

Views Conversion Program

LD2208205293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Aug 93

[From the "Itogi" newscast]

[Excerpts] A very important event last week was the visit by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to the Far East. Chernomyrdin was accompanied on the trip by our special correspondent German Solomakhin. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Solomakhin] What path will the development of the Far East take in economic terms—creating economic zones, or using freed-up capacity as a result of conversion?

[Chernomyrdin] I would cite our conversion program as the priority today. That's how things have developed historically. This is the direction the Far East has always had—strategic defense, that's how the industry has developed. There are now immense possibilities in industry, in the defense sectors, for switching to output of national economic significance. This is an immense possibility today. As a result, we will be able to say thank you for this.

I have already said, and I'll say it again, that the people who have worked, who are working at these enterprises, are creating unique technology. These are [word indistinct] enterprises. In fact, the merit of these people is that they really stood their ground in the cold war. They did not lose. They stood their ground, and they did this with dignity. It is not their fault that we, the contemporary generation of today, need to help these enterprises switch to civilian output. There is every possibility for this. Time will be needed. Funds will also be needed, especially now at this stage. I think they have to be found in any event. Everything for this; that's the main thing. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Views Defense Issues, Kurils

LD2008220393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1431 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Khabarovsk, 20 Aug—"The nucleus of effective policy lies in economic regulation of the development of relations between the regions and the federal center," Viktor Chernomyrdin stated today in Khabarovsk at a meeting with chiefs of enterprises, organizations, and local authorities.

Dwelling on the problems of the economic development of the Far East, the head of the Russian government noted that the region is experiencing serious difficulties: output is falling in many extracting and processing industries, in machine building, and above all in the defense complex, capital construction, and the food industry. At the same time, Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed, "the Far East was and remains Russia's gateway into the world economy."

Touching on the problem of the armed forces, the prime minister stressed that the government will ensure that solutions are found to the main questions concerning the financing of the army and defense orders. He pointed out to representatives of the defense industry and okrug commanders that they should attempt to solve some of the problems through their own efforts.

Speaking about the problem of the Kuril Islands, Viktor Chernomyrdin stated once again: "Russia does not intend to give the Kuril Islands away to anyone."

'Difficult Dialogue' in Vladivostok

PM2308094593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Aug 93 p 1

[Igor Petrov report: "Decisions, Adopted Not in the Cabinet but During the Official Trip by the Head of Government to the Far East, Will Help This Kray To Get Out of the Crisis"]

[Text] Vladivostok—"I have arrived here in the mood for work, with a desire to find a solution to the kray's exacerbated social and economic problems," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said on arrival in Vladivostok. "I am sure that we will be able to eliminate some of them on the spot during the conference, and we will return to the most complex ones in Moscow. But in any case, the proposals made by the Maritime Kray Administration will be studied most attentively and will definitely be taken into consideration."

The head of the Russian Government had a difficult dialogue with the kray's leadership in Vladivostok. A great many problems have indeed accumulated here, and delays in settling them have already brought Maritime Kray to the brink of a social explosion. The recent sharp increase in electricity charges has particularly exacerbated the situation; it has made practically the entire industrial output of the kray uncompetitive, and has dealt a painful blow at the living standard of the population. According to Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Far East is not a region which can manage without assistance from other oblasts in Russia. And it is not the fault of the local inhabitants that their kray had been given a different thrust in the development of the production infrastructure within the framework of the former USSR.

Speaking about the political situation in the kray, the head of government noted: "I am not one of those people who are good at weaving political intrigues. I came here to get down to work."

His words were soon put into practice during an enlarged conference of the leadership of the Maritime Kray Administration, enterprise directors, and representatives of federal ministries and departments. It proved possible to find a solution to the problem of the ore-dressing combines fairly quickly, evidently thanks to thorough study in Moscow and in Vladivostok. A directive envisaging state support for these enterprises was signed actually at the conference by the chairman of the Council of Ministers. According to specialists, the Maritime Kray ore-dressing combines will now be given an opportunity to supply concentrates for processing in Taiwan, South Korea, and Australia. Some of the earnings from sales of the finished output—tin, zinc, and lead—will go to the combines and the kray administration. Foreign partners have already expressed interest in implementing this project, protocols of intentions have already been signed, and a real possibility to move onto practical actions has now appeared.

Things were far more complex with the discussion of the Maritime Kray's fuel and energy complex problems. Historically, the kray has never had its own energy base, and has received electricity and fuel from other oblasts. Today the majority of enterprises in the kray cannot afford to pay 53 rubles [R] per kilowatt-hour.

It was decided at the conference that the government would help Maritime Kray to develop its own fuel base. Tough deadlines were set: By 1995 power plants and heat and electric power stations must be fully supplied with local coal. Viktor Chernomyrdin instructed all interested departments to monitor the commissioning of seven new energy complex plants and to ensure that their funding is uninterrupted.

Things began to move in the settlement of the kray's other urgent problems. The conversion program, aimed at the reorientation of military output, was discussed. A total of R30 billion is to be received for these purposes in the near future. V. Kulikov, first deputy chairman of the Central Bank, promised firmly that a credit line would be set up on specific terms, and that the banks which delay payments would be subject to fines and deprived of their licenses. After further study is made of the Maritime Kray Administration's proposals, decisions will be adopted to improve the rules of foreign economic activity, which are extended to other border areas of Russia too.

'Satisfied' With Servicemen's Training

PM2308100993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Aug 93 p 1

[Valeriy Usoltsev report: "Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Directs Tank Fire and Praises the Combat Proficiency of Far East Military District Servicemen"]

[Text] Khabarovsk—The Russian prime minister's tour of Khabarovsk Kray began with a visit to a poultry plant and a ship-building plant. The head of government then set off for the Far East Military District training ground, where he held a conversation with District Commander Colonel General Viktor Chechevatov, air defense and air force commanders, and the commander of a corps of railroad troops.

Col. Gen. Chechevatov told the Russian prime minister about the difficulties which one of Russia's largest military districts is experiencing, in particular the problem of manning units and the shortage of monetary resources. Moreover, the commander expressed concern over supplies of new equipment and spares.

The prime minister promised to study these problems in detail and to help resolve them. Then Viktor Chernomyrdin witnessed a battalion tactical exercise involving live fire.

The Russian prime minister awarded valuable gifts (watches) to Majors Andrey Glushko and Nikolay Kutsenko; Captains Vladimir Trunov and Sergey Korshikov; Senior Lieutenants Oleg Kasatkin, Igor Onishchenko, and Aleksandr Demidov; Lieutenant Aleksey Yevstigneyev; and Junior Sergeants Yevgeniy Dorokhov and Vadim Sitinkov, who had distinguished themselves during the exercise.

After visiting the tank training regiment commanded by Colonel Aleksandr Korchinskiy, Viktor Chernomyrdin, along with Khabarovsk Kray Administration Head Viktor Ishayev and Khabarovsk Kray Soviet Chairman Nikolay Tsvetkov, carried out shooting with live ammunition from a T-80 tank.

Asked by your correspondent how he rated the Far East servicemen's combat proficiency, the head of government replied that he remained satisfied with it, noting the efficient battlefield coordination of subunits of different categories of troops. You sense, Viktor Chernomyrdin said, that the district takes combat training seriously.

Returns to Moscow 20 Aug

LD2008204293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1910 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Moscow, 20 Aug—Having ended his visit to the Far East, Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, returned to Moscow this evening. [passage omitted]

Chernomyrdin's Far East Trip Assessed

MK2008121793 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 44, 20 Aug 93 (Signed to press 19 Aug) p 2

[Aleksandr Bekke report under the "Visits" rubric: "The Premier in Primorskiy Kray; What Is He Looking For in The Far-Off Land?"]

[Text] Primorskiy Kray lived through two cataclysms on 10 August. One was natural—a hurricane; another social—a strike involving 600,000 people. The strike, according to the statement by the kray's administration and trade unions, threatened to become indefinite. The strikes involved defense factories. The government had delayed payment of military conversion credits worth 28 billion rubles. The local authorities halted privatization on the plea that a third of the enterprises were on the verge of bankruptcy: the freeing of energy prices caused electricity costs to triple. The idea for a one-channel tax and the cutting back on finances paid to the federal budget resurfaced. There once again were loud clamors for proclamation of a Primorskiy Republic. In a word, Viktor Chernomyrdin could not brush off the Far Eastern "tsunami."

The head of the Council of Ministers traveled to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Vladivostok. First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets flew concurrently to Khabarovsk, Komsomolsk-na-Amure, and

Sovetskaya Gavan. The teams of Staraya Ploshchad top bosses that included chiefs of ministries also took in Magadan and Kurilsk. One year ago, the government put down the brewing crisis with prompt supplies of fuel and by throwing some money to Primorskiy Kray. "Kamchatka, and the entire Far East, for that matter, have found themselves in a most difficult state in the course of reforms," Viktor Chernomyrdin said on arrival. "I think we will be passing special government decrees and designing preferential terms for Far Easterners. Your problems should be resolved comprehensively rather than through half-measures, or just like that: fuel, prices, taxes, the social sphere."

The tour must have shown to the premier what an "interesting" spinoff the reforms can entail. The budget-tax mechanism and the administrative-time-serving one under the Soviet government has degraded over the recent 18 months into a well-nigh feudal mechanism. "Buying" political support of individual oblasts and republics, Moscow dooms to worse living conditions regions that have become financial donors. For example, taxes levied on Primorskiy Kray in 1992 depleted the local budget to the extent that in per-capita terms, it was 6.5 times less than Sakha-Yakutia's, for example, or three thirds of Russia's. The main principle of budget redistribution for any federal state was thereby violated: the helper should not become poorer than he who is being helped. The freeing of energy prices did not simply raise the price of electric power, but made it ten times higher for Primorskiy Kray enterprises than, say, for oblasts of Siberia.

The emphasis on monetary, money levers of reforms, even if totally unavoidable and important, still proved a bit rough for as huge and diverse a country as Russia: regional peculiarities became dissolved in the macroeconomic objective of "financial stabilization." This exacerbated the center's relations with the provinces. The provinces held up as their vanguard in the fight for their rights the associations "Sibirskoye Soglasheniye," "Bolshoy Ural," and "Bolshaya Volga." They started to pressure Moscow in an unorganized manner for easier taxes and exclusive foreign trade rights. Ethnic entities were busy doing the same. The political mess in the capital turned this movement into a Brown's movement, whereby stability of the tax, privatization, and budget legislation was not the winner. While some regions were pressing parliament for exclusive rights, others were looking for the right approach to the ministers. Bashkortostan secured a general increase in the quotas and the number of licenses, pleading that this was needed for the "growing national self-consciousness;" Kirov Oblast secured the same for a separate project. Tuva and Kalmykia received for 1992-1995 \$50 and \$75 million foreign quota credits, correspondingly. At the same time, the Far East only secured agreement on such a quota as being possible in principle.

One would think that Viktor Chernomyrdin is yet to discover many failings in the course of his trip to

Primorskiy Kray. Some lend themselves to being rectified right on the spot, as they say: like the decision on principle to no longer bring energy to the region and to reorient it to resources in Southeast Asia. Other failings concerned with problems of fishing in the Sea of Okhotsk cannot be resolved so simply. Very probably, the head of government would, in line with established tradition, grant Primorskiy Kray a helping of preferential terms.

The social "tsunami," though, may prove useful if it makes the center approach regional policy in a serious and comprehensive manner, and compels it to pass a law on oil and gas and amendments to the antiquated law on foreign investments. The blurred rules of separation of powers encourage the regions toward willful actions and homemade, parochial "legislation" that split the federation even further. Having visited Primorskiy Kray, Viktor Chernomyrdin is not going to say what he uttered six months in Tomsk: "We do not want strong regions; one should simply create in them good conditions for work and living." The time of truisms in the spirit of socialism seems finally on the way out.

Mordovia Upholds Decision To Abolish President's Post

LD2108142393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] The Constitutional Court of Mordovia, that considered the request from Vasiliy Guslyannikov, the former president, that it should test the constitutional legality of the Mordovian Supreme Soviet's decision abolishing the posts of president and vice president, concluded its work in Saransk today.

The court upheld the law of the Mordovian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], abolishing the posts of president and vice president and amending the constitution, and recommended the Supreme Soviet to adopt a special law on social guarantees for the former president and vice president.

That was a report from our correspondent in Saransk.

Chernomyrdin Orders Refugee Aid for Ossetia, Ingushetia

PM2008155393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Aug 93 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Common Sore and Common Problems"]

[Text] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, has signed a directive drawn up to execute the presidential edict "On Urgent Measures of State Support for the Formation and Socioeconomic Development of the Ingush Republic" and the government decrees "On Measures to Provide Housing for Refugees and Enforced Migrants on the Territory of the North Ossetian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] and the Ingush Republic" and "On Measures

to Comprehensively Solve the Problem of Refugees and Enforced Migrants in the Ossetian-Ingush Conflict Zone."

It is planned to second senior officials from central ministries and departments to North Ossetia and Ingushetia to provide concrete assistance to the interim administration and executive organs in the aforesaid republics in relieving the consequences of the conflict. It is planned to set up a financial service within the interim administration. This will finance the federal programs for aid to refugees and enforced migrants, as well as other spending on maintaining the state of emergency.

Under this document the Finance Ministry is obliged to provide uninterrupted financing for measures related to the construction of housing and social, cultural, medical, and consumer facilities for those affected. Moreover, the program for the Russian Federation's socioeconomic development in the immediate future will envisage the allocation of capital investment and material and technical resources for the comprehensive resolution of the problems facing North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

Personal responsibility for carrying out the adopted decisions lies with the leaders of the relevant ministries and departments.

Army To Mine Approaches to Depots in N. Ossetia

LD2108110593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1035 GMT 21 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz August 21 TASS—The North Ossetian Security Council met here today under the chairmanship of head of the republic Akhsarbek Galazov. It discussed the situation in the region and ways to ensure the security of the civilian population in the state of emergency zone in connection with the joint appeal of the Russian president and prime minister to the peoples of North Ossetia and Ingushetia. Acting Corps Commander Major General Yevgeniy Skobelev said at the meeting that cases of the stealing of arms and ammunition from arms depots had become more frequent of late. For this reason the Army units were ordered to mine all distant and close approaches to military townships and to open fire, if bandit groups attack Army depots.

Reports are coming from the state of emergency zone about some stabilisation of the situation there. There has been neither shooting, nor inter-ethnic clashes there for three days. The Russian peace-keeping troops continue to ensure the observance of the state of emergency regime.

Deputy Premier Soskovets Arrives in Ulan-Ude

LD2108081693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0658 GMT 21 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Trofimov]

[Text] Ulan-Ude August 21 TASS—A government delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets arrived in Ulan-Ude from the Maritime Territory today in the morning.

They plan to study the situation created in Buryatia as a result of a flood, which inflicted the damage estimated at 70 billion roubles. During their one-day visit the delegation intends to see some industrial enterprises—the Buryatneftemash plant, the Ulan-Ude glass producing factory and a meat packing factory, and to discuss problems dealing with a further development and financing of the fuel and energy complex of Buryatia. In the evening Soskovets will confer with the Buryat Government, heads of enterprises and organisations, as well as Buryat businessmen.

Now the delegation is visiting the Ulan-Ude aircraft-making complex, where they went right from the airport.

Notes Need To Change Credit, Financial Ties

LD2108142793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Oleg Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, today spoke at a meeting with the leadership and representatives of the industry of Buryatia. He noted the need to change the system of credit and financial relations in the country in order to avoid a paralysis in production. He considers that in order to resolve many of the region's problems the local leadership must renounce the stereotypes of the past.

Visits Aviation 'Amalgamation'

LD2108143293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1404 GMT 21 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Trofimov]

[Text] Ulan Ude August 21 TASS—First Russian Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets visited the largest Far Eastern aviation production amalgamation today as part of his Buryat tour.

The amalgamation is living through hard times, facing the same problems as the rest of the Russian defence complex. It has been under conversion for three years and has launched the production of two models of civil helicopters. Although the amalgamation has clients, the lack of circulating assets has put the production on the verge of halt.

The vice-premier said the government will render financial aid to the amalgamation, but the latter should

understand "the structure of the industry has changed, and the amalgamation cannot exist any longer in its current form".

Today Soskovets also visited the Buryatmash plant, the glass factory, the heating plant under construction and the canned meat factory.

Sakhalin Governor on First 100 Days in Office

OW2208085193

[Editorial Report] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Teleradiokompaniya Sakhalin Television in Russian at 1905 GMT on 23 July carries its regular "Morning Program" broadcast which is entirely dedicated to a statement by and news conference with Sakhalin Oblast Governor Ye.A. Krasnoyarov on his first 100 days in office. The news conference is with unidentified domestic correspondents.

Krasnoyarov is shown sitting at a desk with an unidentified official at his side. He begins his statement by saying that 47 days of the first 100 were taken up by travel, most of which was connected to preparing the draft constitution and participating in the constitutional conference. He further adds that the draft constitution is to be discussed by the oblast soviet and sent to Moscow together with comments and proposals.

He says: "If it is not adopted without changes to the text of the constitution, the president then has the right to appeal to the people through a referendum."

Krasnoyarov then continues: "As far as the essence of the constitution is concerned, I like it. It is in tune with my thoughts and directions in my work as head of the administration. As I have emphasized many times before and want to emphasize particularly now, if we do not want to remain a raw materials appendage of Russia, the CIS, and neighboring countries, we must all fight concertedly for the new constitution which, to some degree, gives us rights for more independent local government. This concerns legislative and legal activities, and the control of raw material resources, which is particularly important for us as the peripheral oblast of Russia, and generally more independence. So, I am building my policy with a focus on the adoption of the new constitution." Krasnoyarov then discusses Sakhalin's economic situation and notes the general decline in production with the exception of the oil and gas industries, which remained at the level of last year, and the fishing and housing industries, which performed slightly better. He notes that production declined in the cellulose, paper, and timber industries,

In speaking of the oblast budget, Krasnoyarov states that while the oblast budget is 144 billion rubles and federal taxes amount to 69 billion rubles, subsidies coming from the central budget amount to 75 billion rubles.

He says: "We preserve our position as a subsidized oblast and we are subsidized approximately 51 percent out of the federal budget. I raise this issue straightaway

because there is a lot of talk about the creation of an independent republic. I do not support the creation of a republic, as yet."

After outlining the situation in the coal industry and plans for the gradual liberalization of prices, Krasnoyarov talks about the need to manage the economy. He says: "It has been a great mistake on the part of everyone in Russia to think that the free economy needs no directing, coordinating, and planning. You see, it needs controls that are stricter than ever before." He then says that a good harvest is expected this year and that efforts are being made to ensure a continual supply of fuel to the agricultural sector.

Krasnoyarov then tells of moves toward closer cooperation with the center, and as an example, he cites the signing of an agreement between the oblast administration and the Russian committee on fishing resources which transfers some of the committee's functions to Sakhalin Oblast. He also outlines plans for similar agreements in the areas of fuel and energy, timber, and transportation systems.

Speaking of future plans for the oblast administration, Krasnoyarov tells of plans to create a state retail company which would import food products such as mutton, cheese, butter, and fruit from New Zealand as part of a barter deal, with Sakhalin paying in fish products, timber, and other raw materials.

In discussing the state of the fuel and energy supply in Sakhalin, Krasnoyarov tells of plans to build a petroleum processing plant in Korsakov in view of the high price of ferrying petroleum products from the Komsomolsk-na-Amure petroleum processing plant. He notes that preparations for winter, such as an accumulation of fuel at heating and electrical plants, is proceeding in a satisfactory fashion.

In discussing relations with Moscow, Krasnoyarov tells of efforts to induce Russian Federation ministers and other high officials to visit Sakhalin. He then begins to take questions from the correspondents.

In answering a question on anticipated personnel changes, Krasnoyarov tells of the need to gradually increase the number of administrative personnel in order to improve the work of the administration, and he says that dismissing people with administrative experience has been a mistake, as has been the dismantling of the "vertical power structure."

Answering a question on the proposed draft constitution, Krasnoyarov says that he is completely satisfied with the rights that it guarantees Sakhalin Oblast. He further says that the newly created administration for raw resources will permit sales of raw products such as fish only to those enterprises and individuals who plan to further invest their profits in Sakhalin, and that all investments by the coal, gas, petroleum, timber, and fishing industries will be directed at developing the oblast's ability to process raw materials.

Responding to a question on the current transportation problems in the Kuril Islands, Krasnoyarov tells of an economic plan to develop the Islands. The plan includes 250 billion rubles and \$350 million for purchasing means of transportation and the building of ports and airports. Krasnoyarov further denies rumors of a complete withdrawal of military personnel from the Burevestnik airfield on Iturup Island and says that the only military personnel remaining there are the border guards.

He says: "I believe that the withdrawal of the military from the Kurils might have been a mistake. After all, this is our territory. What are we afraid of? This is our Russian territory. There are unalterable values in the world such as earth, water, air, and people. I believe that borders belong in this category, and especially today." He further mentions the examples of Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia, and Yugoslavia as examples of conflicts sprouting in places where territorial concessions were made, and he says that cases of poaching have multiplied drastically in the Kurils since the departure of the

military. Krasnoyarov then also attributes the widespread poaching to the lack of funds for fishing inspection services.

Krasnoyarov states that he agrees with President Yeltsin's position acknowledging the existence of the Kuril Islands issue, but the governor says that the economic situation in Russia does not allow any discussion of the issue. He then says that the issue of the Kuril Islands "should be left to our great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren."

Krasnoyarov stresses the need for a clear and definite constitution as soon as possible, and he says that he does dismiss the possibility of running for the Russian parliament.

Krasnoyarov concludes the news conference by answering a question on corruption and crime in the oblast. He notes that about 10 percent of gross income in the oblast is absorbed by corruption, and he tells of plans for personnel changes in oblast law enforcement and of the need to fight crime through social and economic measures.

International Affairs

Supreme Soviet Delegation Visits U.S.

WS2008130393 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program
Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Report attributed to the press service of the Ukrainian Embassy in United States]

[Text] A Ukrainian Supreme Soviet delegation is continuing a visit to the United States. The delegation has held talks in the White House and at the Council for National Defense. In the course of the talks, there have been discussions on the fate of nuclear arms deployed on Ukrainian territory and prospects for expanding bilateral cooperation in the field of defense, economy, and scientific research. The members of the delegation were provided with detailed information regarding the official stance of the U.S. Administration in the sphere of nuclear disarmament. The Ukrainian side informed their U.S. counterparts on the progress of Supreme Soviet discussions of the issues of ratification of the START I and the Nuclear Arms Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. In the course of the talks at the State Department, further expansion of bilateral cooperation in various branches was discussed.

At the Pentagon, the delegation held consultations on bilateral cooperation in the military-political sphere. The Ukrainian lawmakers met with U.S. Deputy Secretaries of Defense Ashton Cutter and Graham Allison and with Lieutenant General McCarthy, member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The deputies explained their standpoint on the problems hindering Ukraine's ratification of the START I and the NPT and were acquainted with the stance of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Accompanied by the sounds of Ukrainian and U.S. national anthems, the members of the delegation laid a wreath to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Memorial and paid tribute to the memory of perished U.S. soldiers.

The Ukrainian lawmakers also laid flowers at the monument of Taras Shevchenko in downtown Washington. On behalf of Ukrainian Ambassador Oleh Bilorus, a reception was held at the Ukrainian Embassy.

Defense Ministry Refutes Report on Missile Control

AU2308131893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian
20 Aug 93 p 2

["Statement by the Press Service of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense;" date not given]

[Text] Some mass media, referring to the interview given by Ukraine's Deputy Minister of Defense Ivan Bizhan to the BBC, disseminated information to the effect that Ukraine is capable of blocking Moscow's control over 176 intercontinental ballistic missiles on its territory and that it will, in the very near future, get the codes for launching these missiles.

The Press Service of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense is authorized to state that Colonel General Ivan Bizhan did not give such information to the BBC correspondent.

Such a question was asked by the correspondent, but the answer to it was that Ukraine is capable of thwarting the use of strategic nuclear forces that are stationed on its territory. However, in what concerns the development or taking possession of the codes, this contradicts Ukraine's state policy regarding nuclear weapons, and no such work is conducted.

Naval Officers Union Claims Fleet Agreement Unfulfilled

LD2308092693 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0730 GMT
22 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev, 22 Aug— The Union of Naval Officers of Ukraine has appealed to the presidents of Ukraine and the Russian Federation in a letter. The appeal emphasizes that the Ukrainian-Russian agreements on building the naval forces of Ukraine and Russia's navy on the basis of the Black Sea Fleet have not been implemented. The Black Sea Fleet, which is subordinated to the presidents of Ukraine and Russia in compliance with the Yalta agreement, is actually fulfilling the orders and instructions of Russia's defense minister and navy commander exclusively. Issues of logistical support of the Black Sea Fleet naval forces of Ukraine are ignored: there is a shortage of communication and observation systems, there are no berths for the ships of the Ukrainian naval forces. The observation and identification system on the shore territory of Ukraine is being put out of action according to instructions from Moscow.

With regard to the above facts the Union of Naval Officers of Ukraine demands that the Supreme Council should immediately make a decision on the Black Sea division with clearly determined terms and mechanisms of the division and also determine the status of the ships of the Russian Federation, the terms and conditions of their temporary stay at the naval bases of Ukraine. The Union of Naval Officers also demands that the BRAV [expansion unknown] units, marines, headquarters, commandant's office, and other structures of the Black Sea Fleet which do not require coastal base sites be withdrawn beyond the borders of Ukraine.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Interviewed on Various Issues

LD2008182393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1908 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Interview with President Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk by correspondent Ihor Storozhuk in Kiev—live]

[Text] [Storozhuk] There is no [words indistinct] in public or political life. Do you think there can be complete calm at the time of (?a summer recess) in politics?

[Kravchuk] I think there can never be complete calm. The tension that is experienced in political life does not invariably reach the surface. There are at least two circumstances which prevent it from reaching the surface: when the economic situation is quite stable, and when all the functioning bodies of power are both trusted and supported, and are legitimate.

The legitimacy of our bodies of power is ensured in Ukraine, and that, (?in general), is a great victory of ours. Both the Supreme Council and the president were elected by the people. Under what sort of laws and under what conditions they were elected is quite another matter.

We do not have any reason (?to talk) about illegitimacy. That is very important and is a factor of stability [words indistinct].

However, our economic life is complex and all the processes currently (?under way) are spilling over and finding their way into political activity. Various parties are becoming engaged in a fight; given the present situation, that can also be regarded as a normal phenomenon.

Who to fight and how to fight is quite another matter. One can fight each other, which is also a fight. One can fight by debating and by constitutional methods, or one can overstep the boundaries of this struggle and even seek the use of force. This need not be real or, let us say, actual force, but can take the form of strikes and disobedience. At any event, that is a form of force. We have already had an opportunity to hear about the latter [words indistinct]. That is to say, the path from now on is dangerous.

In my opinion, however, the struggle and the constitutional struggle are in themselves normal.

The only thing I would like the parties now fighting in the political arena to do is to place greater emphasis on studying the real situation and on meeting their future electorate.

At present, everybody turns to the government, the president, and the Supreme Council. These bodies do, of course, play an important part in the life of society. But it is primarily the people who wield power, and it is at the local level that elections to the Supreme Council and presidential elections will be held in future. It is by the people and by the electors—of which there are 37 million in Ukraine—that those will be elected. It is the people who will settle all the issues. That is why one should communicate with them more.

By the way, it is then that the situation will be better understood.

In my opinion, Ukraine's political life will in the very near future be determined by at least two important aspects of the political situation: first a referendum, and

second an economic union. I think—indeed I am convinced—that the work of the forthcoming session and the political life of Ukraine will center on these two issues.

As far as the referendum is concerned, I already expressed my opinion. I think the best way would be to make a decision on pre-term elections of the parliament and local councils. Correspondingly, we need to decide what kind of a state we will build if a decision is made to this effect: either a presidential, a parliamentary, or a mixed state. If we make a decision on these two issues, then everything will take its proper place.

If, for example, the people come out in favor of a parliamentary republic, then a new parliament will be voted in, which will elect the government. The institution of the presidency will then leave the stage and the presidency itself as an office will cease to exist. There will be no need to spend money on a referendum. There will be no need to exacerbate the political situation. And there will be no need to plunge into ambition.

I have been watching the press, and my point is that it is no longer the essence, the significance, or the consequences that are now at issue. Instead, it is ambitions. People are making such remarks as: We were promised; we were told; we will insist on this, no matter what the effect or the consequences.

[Kravchuk] By the way, most working people favor settling issues through negotiations.

I would like to cite an important figure. Recently, at the end of July, the (?sociology) institute of our Ukrainian Academy of Sciences conducted (?an opinion poll) on the following question: In what way should trade unions function? Of those polled, 5.3 percent favored strikes, 9 percent favored protest rallies, and 72 percent favored negotiations. That is to say, the people can see now that every strike makes the economy worse. So one cannot seriously believe, for instance, that suddenly changing (?all) structures of power will improve our lives.

There is one thing that will improve our lives. In HOLOS UKRAYINY today there is a very interesting article by a young engineer from Zaporozhye, who has now taken charge of a private firm. He said only one thing will work: responsibility and work. Anything else is wishful thinking, including appeals for political strikes.

Thus, a referendum and a settlement of both the political issue and the issue of power are not of the same order of magnitude. A referendum will not settle these issues. We have to carry out various activities and take action to settle these issues.

It costs 22 billion [currency not specified] of state funds to hold a referendum. That is not easily found. It so happens that we need exactly 22 billion to renew our Army's uniforms. Should we spend it all on a referendum? We could do it if it were to yield a result. That is what matters. What if there are no results?

I favor the issue being settled in a legitimate and constitutional way and being resolved in the interests of the people.

As far as economic union is concerned, I was and am now in favor of integration. By the way, this idea belongs to Ukraine. At the end of last year in Minsk, it was Ukraine that forwarded a proposal to establish economic integration within the framework of the CIS. We came out with a document that it is the protocol. The governments were commissioned to draft the agreement later on in Moscow.

Ukraine called it a community; others called it a union. This is the problem of giving it a name. There are more important problems. Therefore, now they often ask me: Three governments—three government leaders—made statements. Why in Ukraine do they all keep silent? I answer: There is nothing to talk about because this was not the governments' initiative. They were commissioned by the heads of states in Moscow. The fact that they made a statement—this is their stand, but this is not their initiative. I stress this. They were commissioned by the heads of states in January this year. Now it is necessary to talk, not about the statements, but to discuss the agreement in concrete terms.

We must discuss what kind of agreement it will be, what each Commonwealth member state will have from it, and how it will determine the role, rights, and economic independence of a state, integrational processes, and their benefits and effectiveness.

It is a fallacy to think that a union or commonwealth can be formed tomorrow and that everything will once again improve. We have to be driven by reality. If an agreement is to be signed, it has to be realistic and beneficial, and must by all means ensure the economic and political independence of every state, and that applies to Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus.

You and I are meeting today on the eve of the second anniversary of Ukraine's independence. Our state is two years old. Two years! I hope and believe that there is no one who would like Ukraine to sign any documents which would turn back the clock. It can sign documents which will benefit everyone—this is exactly the kind of documents they have to be—and which will ensure everyone's independence.

Economic integration, however, is an objective process. Economic ties within the framework of the CIS is an issue of utmost importance to every one of our states. This is the course we have to take. This is exactly the course! I have supported this and will continue to do so.

[Storozhuk] But, Leonid Makarovych, this stance attracts fairly serious, or at least fairly sharp, criticism. There is again talk about a new empire being created, and so on. This very criticism may be characteristic of political extremism. You said political constructivism is needed in our life at the moment. But we have political extremism too. The mass media are more and more

frequently carrying reports, for example, about armed Ukrainian National Assembly and Ukrainian National Self-Defense [UNA-UNSD] units. It was reported the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine sent you an open letter, that there was an appeal by veterans, and so on. What is your opinion? What is the relationship between the armed formations of the UNA-UNSD, (?although) legally not registered, and the existence of the democratic state of Ukraine in general.

[Kravchuk] The story of the UNA-UNSD is already written, as they say. It started in 1990. In 1991, rallies were held and various kinds of, let us say, political action took place in the streets. Detachments were then set up, one could say, to control these actions. Then they changed into the UNSD, you see, and this Ukrainian National Assembly [UNA] was created.

The Justice Ministry registered the UNA but not the UNSD. This is very important. Moreover, I would say that the Assembly must now reregister itself, but it has not done so. This is also an important factor. In a democratic society everything must be based on law. That is the essence of a democratic society. At present, unfortunately, we do not yet have this. This is one reason why organizations coming into being, such as the UNSD, which seem to be armed, militarized organizations, are in contravention of the law.

The question naturally arises: Why are appropriate methods not used against them? There are two reasons for this. Well, first, it cannot be said that nothing is being done. I will give you an example of unlawful actions by the UNSD. We have already initiated 15 criminal cases regarding certain members and groups of the UNSD; 15 cases. As to the size of this organization, it has approximately 1,000 members. Well, this is not [word indistinct]. It is a fact that (?fruitful) work is being done.

We are still asked why this organization is not closed down. Well, I have already twice given instructions to our relevant ministries and law enforcement agencies, one could say. I also have the appropriate information, or proposals, here. I have given instructions, in this case, to the procurator's office, the Justice Ministry, the Interior Ministry, and our Security Service.

What is in fact the problem? The problem is simply that there are shortcomings in current legislation. What are they? Let me be quite specific here so that people understand this. Because of the assessment of the UNSD I have spoken about, and the fact that the UNSD is not registered with the Justice Ministry, the UNSD is in fact outside the law. Everyone understands this. However, in Ukraine we have no legal mechanism to ban or forcibly disband such organizations if they are refused registration. So they continue to function. There is also no legal mechanism by which we can make those setting up such organizations criminally liable.

There is another interesting detail. There is our legislation, (?such as it is), and for this one can blame the

Supreme Council, the president, and the law enforcement bodies. But the point is that there are many problems about creating new legislation. Not everything can be covered immediately.

Thus, until recently it was not possible to start a criminal case against the leadership of this organization in accordance with the particularities of Article 187-6 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code, which envisages responsibility for setting up illegal military formations in this way. However, this article has been drawn up in such a way that it insists that weapons be found; moreover it applies to the organization itself, not its individual members. That is, the organization has to be armed. And if this is not so, a criminal case cannot be started.

Therefore, the general procurator's office has already presented a proposal to the Supreme Council regarding Article 63-1, which concerns the recruitment, utilization, financing, or training of mercenaries. This is very important, because, you know, three young men have already died in this Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. The UNSD should bear responsibility for this case. This was on its own initiative, and it was a hazardous venture, I think. So the proposal has already been submitted to the Supreme Council.

We will propose that Article 187-6 of the Criminal Code be expanded to cover responsibility for setting up, financing, and making other provisions for illegal militarized formations, and make it apply to the leaders. We are also proposing that a clause be added to Article 14 of Ukraine's law on citizens' associations about the compulsory legalization of all such associations like this, which have been founded.

Thus, there are two problems here. One problem is the vigor and resoluteness of the law enforcement bodies. I do not think they have made use of everything here, of all of our articles and laws. They could act more vigorously. The main thing is that they ought to act more vigorously, using existing legislation relating to hooliganism to deal with what happened in Ivano-Frankovsk. Incidentally, a commission is working there at the moment, and conclusions will be drawn. We will take appropriate action against the culprits in accordance with those conclusions.

However, we do need to urgently make appropriate additions to our legislation. I think the Supreme Council will examine them, and once this has been done we will be able to act, again in accordance with the laws.

You spoke about us having two extremes. The first... [pauses] Instead of a constructive approach in political, legal, or other matters, two extremes exist. The first extremists are those who say: not with anyone, and nowhere, especially where Russia is concerned. According to them we should have no union with Russia, even one that is advantageous to us, not even an economic one; nothing, because it would be dangerous to form another union. They do not even read the documents before they say this. Then there is the other extreme, which says: no steps forward, no privatization,

no reforms; just turn the clock back. One is senseless, and the other is also senseless.

We should do what is appropriate in the interests of the people and the state, and conclude agreements and sign documents with all states, especially with such a large neighbor as Russia. But I always emphasize that these documents should be realistic and ensure the construction of an independent economy and an independent state, not only in Ukraine, but in Russia too, because we cannot think that this has already been achieved in Russia. The processes taking place there show that Russia has many, many problems. There is still a long way to go in matters concerning Russia's statehood and Russia's might, as there is with the other states created on the territory of the former Soviet Union. We should act sensibly and appropriately in the interests of the people and with the aim of securing our statehood. That's all.

[Storozhuk] Leonid Makarovych, we have been talking about the UNSD. In recent interviews several members of this organization spoke about Russia's might, about Russia's power as the Russian empire. They claimed that their participation in the armed Georgian-Abkhazian conflict is an attempt to restrain Russia, which they say is striving to subordinate the Crimea.

[Kravchuk] Philosophers have the concept of extrapolation. Thus, any events in any region can be extrapolated on our situation and attempts can be made to draw parallels. I would like to say this: I am against blaming the state or the people as a whole. For example, I am against people saying that Russia is an empire.

There are indeed imperial forces in Russia, quite strong forces, extremist forces, and they have showed themselves. The Russian parliament passed a decision on Sevastopol which clearly revealed pro-imperial sentiments. That is quite clear. But I cannot say that Russia as a whole is pro-imperial, that the entire people and all democratic forces in Russia are pro-imperial. If we were to think like this, we would have to doubt all the democratic processes taking place in Russia. I cannot do this. There is no reason to do this. Those Russians who defended democracy two years ago proved that they professed another philosophy.

Our UNSD try to justify their actions by invoking this thesis or that formula. I cannot justify them. This organization is outlawed. And we will act accordingly, adequately. We will act under current legislation, and we will also submit to the Supreme Council, I emphasize this, relevant additions to that legislation. I think the Supreme Council will approve these additions, and everything will be organized on a strictly legal basis.

[Storozhuk] True, analogy is not a proof.

[Kravchuk] It is simply absurd to believe that 10 or 12 people venturing to Abkhazia to support Georgia could

change the situation in that region. This is quite infantile. And this is no light matter, because this adventure has already resulted in several sacrifices.

[Storozhuk] Leonid Makarovych, let us talk a little more about the Crimea. It was announced that you are to meet with Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin to settle the issue of how the Black Sea Fleet is to be divided. Now the Russian mass media say this meeting has been postponed because Ukraine is allegedly unprepared for such a meeting.

[Kravchuk] I would put it differently. First, the matter is serious enough. Second, as far as the Black Sea Fleet is concerned, there are two agreements already: the Yalta agreement, and the agreement signed near Moscow, if you remember. There are two agreements already. In other words, we are not starting from scratch, but we do have to decide what is to be done about these agreements. There is a third agreement to be signed. Will it proceed from those previous agreements, or will it be some new agreement? What philosophy, what stand is to be laid down?

The Governments of Russia and Ukraine are doing the appropriate work on this matter. You probably remember that when Boris Nikolayevich and I signed a statement on Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet, we pointed out that we have commissioned the governments of Russia and Ukraine to prepare proposals. At present, the governments are preparing such proposals.

We agreed that on the eve of our meeting—and such a meeting I can say preliminarily will take place on 3 September in the Crimea—our prime ministers, governments, and delegations will meet on 2 September. We will finally discuss and achieve mutual understanding and work up the document which then could be signed. Of course, we will sign it in the Crimea with Boris Nikolayevich when it is ready. This is why. It is not Ukraine that matters, but the preparation of a joint document that would serve the interests of both Russia and Ukraine.

But for some reason, everyone here is willing to blame Ukraine. If something goes wrong, Ukraine is to blame.

By the way, various insinuations around this still continue, there are some hints and so on, about possible meetings. The meeting, I think, will take place and I hope that such a document will be prepared and it will comply with the interests of Ukraine and Russia.

[Storozhuk] Allow me one last question, Leonid Makarovych. This was such an interesting day. Today is 19 August. The State Committee for the State of Emergency seized power on 19 August [in Russia in 1991]. Today is Thursday, that is, the day on which according to the calendar the State Committee for the State of Emergency (?had all finished). And today we are on the

eve of the second anniversary of Ukraine's independence. The State Committee for the State of Emergency has gone. And there is an independent Ukraine, in spite of all the complications.

[Kravchuk] Naturally, they were not easy times two years ago. A military delegation arrived in Kiev, and there were meetings with that delegation, headed by General Varennikov. I repeat, these were not easy times. Ukraine was still part of the Union then, and we (?understood) that the forces existed that could have silenced our calls for independence at any time. It would not have been sensible to think that independence was altogether possible, because the Union had already started to fall apart long before then, very quickly, since 1985. Everyone understood that the empire would fall. Everyone understood this. Only not everyone knew how fast, and whether we would be able to do this peacefully.

I think it is to the credit of those (?independent) states that came into being immediately after (?this) that we nevertheless managed to preserve peace. I think that if the independent states had not been created so fast, and if the Union had been kept together by force—and (?it could only have been done) by force—the conflicts could have been more extensive.

There is another point of view, which is that the conflicts broke out because the Union disintegrated. But remember, Karabakh, the problem of Karabakh, arose back in the time of the Union, and not afterwards. In other words, the disintegration of the USSR is not the reason. The reason is that it is only the forces of dictatorship that held this state together [words indistinct].

As you correctly said, Ukraine has already existed for two years. There has been peace and calm in Ukraine for two years. This is thanks to our people, and, (?I would add), to our forces, both state and political forces, which have had the courage and sense to conduct political fights at the level of words. This is very important.

Naturally we will soon be celebrating the second anniversary on this day. There will be a grand session on 21 August at the Ukrayina Palace. Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Stepanovych Plyushch will deliver a report. I think fundamental assessments will be made there of our two-year (?progress) toward independence, and the problems, which exist.

But people can see things differently. I can only say that our state does exist, that it is recognized by the world, and that it will continue to exist. I have no doubts whatsoever about this, whatever our difficulties. The majority of our people feel that the state exists in real terms, and that it is necessary to defend it. There is dissatisfaction, because there are problems. Today it is difficult to pronounce lofty epithets, lofty words against the background of the economic situation which has taken shape, and yet the state does exist.

Nevertheless, there is some progress. There are changes in mentality, in ownership. An owner, an economic

owner, an owner of the state has come into being. Democracy exists in real terms. It exists in real terms because over this time no one has been made answerable for some political problems. Absolutely no one. No matter what they say and no matter what they write, or both write and say, the state exists and people exist, and everyone has the right to speak. We just have not fully appreciated this fact.

In the economy, we have taken some steps forward this year, especially in the countryside. According to preliminary data, the early grain harvest will be almost five quintals more than last year [as heard]. Five quintals. We have already put 11 million tons of grain into storage.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our farmers, peasants, and all those concerned with the harvest for the great work they have done in extremely difficult conditions. We ensured supplies of oil and oil products, no matter how difficult it was to do this. There was even a shortage of the substances needed to protect the crops, and yet this was also done.

In other words, there are positive features of our domestic life as well, to say nothing about the international aspect.

Since we are meeting on the eve of Independence Day, I would like to express my gratitude and respect to those who believe in Ukraine and work for its statehood, for the establishment of its power. I would also like to express the hope that everyone's belief be consolidated, and that as everyone can find the strength and resolution to struggle to improve their own lives.

I wish everyone hopes and good dreams. I hope their dreams come true. I wish happiness, well-being, and health to all the residents of Ukraine, and express my belief that with these good words and good hopes we will continue establishing our state. True, this will be under difficult conditions, but we will establish an authoritative, democratic, law-governed Ukrainian state in this world.

150 Deputies Plan Action To Paralyze Parliament

AU2008132293 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 17 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The People's Council Is Preparing an 'X' Action?"]

[Text] One hundred and fifty Supreme Council deputies representing the People's Council and other factions have confirmed in writing their intention to give up their powers as deputies ahead of time and thereby paralyze parliament. Prior to that, however, they will try to alter item two in Article 97 of the Ukrainian Constitution, which provides for a quorum for the Supreme Council.

This action has been thoroughly thought out and planned, stated people's deputy Oleksandr Vorobyov in his conversation with a DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA correspondent. The time for the "X"

action will come when democratic deputies are sure that their withdrawal from the Supreme Council will make it impossible for it to operate.

New Political Bloc for Referendum, Economic Reform

LD2108102993 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0730 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Donetsk [no dateline as received]—A new political bloc, called "For Social Justice" [Za Sotsialnu Spravedlyvist], was set up at a session of a number of parties of Donetsk oblast on 19 August. Communists, socialists, labor veterans, representatives of several trade union organizations, and also of the "Donbass Inter-movement" [Interdvizheniye Donbassa], the Civic Congress of Ukraine [Hromadyanskyy Konhres Ukrayiny], and the Party of Slavic Unity [Partiya Slovyanskoyi Yednosti], called on all those who share their concern about the impoverishment of the people and the other consequences of the economic crisis to join the bloc. The aim of the bloc is to put pressure on power structures, demanding that the situation in the economy be improved as quickly as possible.

A statement regarding the referendum was adopted at the session. In particular it says: "The economic crisis in Ukraine has led to a constitutional crisis. At the same time, the idea of the inadvisability of a referendum is gaining ground. We are asking the Supreme Council deputies to demonstrate political wisdom and hold the referendum." At present the majority of political forces of the Donbass are continuing to insist that a referendum be held.

Opposition Leader Blames Top Leaders for Crisis

LD2308062093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0540 GMT 23 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Odessa August 23 TASS—Sergey Golovaty, an independent parliament member and leader of Ukrainian opposition, appeared on Ukrainian television to blast the parliament, president and government for braking privatisation and actual reforms in Ukraine and pushing the country to the verge of economic collapse.

Sergey Golovaty, known for his consistent criticism voiced in parliament, appeared on Channel 3 of Ukrainian television in a night-time programme devoted to the second anniversary of Ukraine's declaration of independence on August 24, 1991.

Golovaty said the two years since the declaration of independence have been wasted because of the leaders' lack of activity.

He criticised the presidential and governmental structures and some deputies, including some degenerated democrats and charged them with corruption and desire

for personal enrichment and called for elections of new leaders to replace the present.

Rukh Confirms Formal Split in Democratic Movement

LD2108195893 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1430 GMT
21 Aug 93

[Statement by the secretariat of the Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroika, Rukh, in connection with the congress of the All-People's Movement, VRU]

[Text] Kiev, 21 Aug.—According to media reports a congress of the All-People's Movement [VRU] of Ukraine is due to be held on 23 August 1993. In this connection, the secretariat of the Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroika published the following statement:

"Following the 1 December 1992 referendum, leaders and members of Rukh, as well as a wide section of the population, began talks on the future of Rukh, its activity in the new conditions, and its place in the political spectrum of Ukraine. Part of the leadership saw it as a structure meant to support the president and his closest circles, including local presidential administrations. In effect, this view is of a fluid formation, whose grass root units would have to content themselves with the role of rubber stamps, i.e., mere executors of directives issued by an elite that had achieved certain positions in bodies of power and pro-government public structures on the wave of the liberation struggle. The concept of Rukh as that of a nation-building organization in opposition was expressly rejected, despite the fact that the existence of opposition in a civilized country is necessary to stimulate the reformist activity of state structures. [passage indistinct]

Constant interference with the activity of local Rukh organizations, the disorientation of VRU members, the slandering of its leaders, and the misinformation resorted to by these people is discrediting the ideas of national democracy in the eyes of the public, damaging the authority of democratic forces, and depriving them of the opportunity to unite in building an independent and democratic Ukraine.

In accordance with the policy aimed at splitting Rukh and encouraged by the leadership of the Congress of National-Democratic Forces, people's deputies L. Skoryk and M. Porovskyy, presidential administration employee B. Ternopilskyy, and others set up an "independent public organization All-People's Movement of Ukraine" as a counterbalance to the People's Movement, made up of small groups in several oblasts of Ukraine, already programmed to the destruction of Rukh.

Citizens of Ukraine have every right to form associations in accordance with their views and convictions provided they do not contradict the laws of the state. We are ready to cooperate with any party or organization whose activities are aimed at the building of a Ukrainian state and whose actions do not cause enmity or mutual strife in

society. However, we cannot agree with the newly created VRU in using, with insignificant changes, the People's Movement charter, assuming the People's Movement name, and speaking on Rukh's behalf. We cannot agree with the unscrupulous position of Ukraine's Justice Minister [Vasyl Vasylyovych] Onopenko who, under the pressure of certain power structures, gave permission to register, on the basis of fictitious documents, an organization which calls itself Rukh, having nothing to do with the VRU.

We regard the founding of VRU and its activities as yet another attempt to cause disunion among the democratic forces, which is unacceptable with Ukraine facing a threat of losing its independence."

War Veterans Urge End to Extremism

AU2008194093 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA
in Ukrainian 17 Aug 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "To Put and End to Extremism"]

[Text] The Presidium of the Council of Ukraine's Veterans Organization held an expanded meeting at which an appeal to the state's supreme leaders and also to Ukraine's Procurator General was adopted. The appeal, which its authors called an "Open Letter Expressing Alarm" reads, in particular, as follows:

"Unfortunately, the events that were instigated by the impudent national extremist forces in Lvov, Rivne, Ternopil, and other cities, and about which we informed the president, the Supreme Council, and the Cabinet of Ministers, continue. The constitution, law and order are being flagrantly violated, first and foremost, by those forces that groundlessly condemn veterans of the Great Patriotic War, but, at the same time, present former OUN-UPA [Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists-Ukrainian Insurrection Army] militants and those who profess their ideology as heroes.

"In accordance with the conclusions reached by the Presidium of the Council of the Veterans' Organization, the illegal, mainly violent extremist actions are being further exacerbated because they are not subjected to proper political evaluation and no decisive measures are used against the violators of the law."

The veterans write with indignation that the participants in and organizers of violence against the war veterans in Rivne have not been punished to this day. An even more audacious crime was perpetrated on 25 July in Ivano-Frankivsk. Having received permission from the City Executive Committee, veterans who had taken an active part in the Great Patriotic War decided to hold a manifestation, a rally, and the laying of wreaths at graves of those soldiers who perished during World War II. They decided to do this on the occasion of the 49th anniversary of the city's liberation from the fascist invaders. When the column of veterans (more than 300) with their banners, wreaths, and flowers marched in the direction of the Memorial Cemetery, they were met by a

large group of young people armed with stones and sticks, and a squabble ensued. The most belligerent forces had been specially brought to the city by buses from several rayons.

As reported by the oblast and city councils of veterans, as a result of the brutal attack, several participants in the manifestation were severely wounded. More than 29 elderly persons suffered injuries. Wreaths, memorial ribbons, and even the banner of the Rifle Battalion that had liberated Ivano-Frankivsk from fascist invaders were savagely torn to pieces in front of hundreds of people. The militia only intervened after blood had been spilled. Three attackers were detained. The organizers of the criminal action are also known—they are leaders and activists of Rukh (Ukraine's People's Movement for Perestroika) and of the Ukrainian Republican Party.

The Presidium of Ukraine's Council of Veterans believes that the massacre is also a logical continuation of the illegal and unconstitutional decision adopted by the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast Council of People's Deputies "On Recognizing OUN-UPA on the Territory of the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast as a Warring Side in the Conditions of the Fascist and Bolshevik Occupation" and granting the fighters and their families the same benefits as received by participants in the Great Patriotic War and their families.

The authors of the appeal insist that Ukraine's state leadership discuss, at the highest state level, not only the facts listed in the letter, but also the growing threat, on the part of national extremist forces, to social peace, democracy, and the existence of the independent state and take measures that would rule out any unpunished recurrence of such facts in the future, ensure the protection of human rights, and fulfill the requirements of the Constitution, laws, and presidential edicts. The veterans demand that the investigation of the criminal actions in Rivne and Ivano-Frankivsk be taken under the special control of the Procurator General's Office.

Don Cossacks Want Autonomy for Lugansk Oblast

LD2108103693 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0730 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Lugansk [dateline as received]—The leadership of the Society of Don Cossacks of Lugansk [Tovarystvo Donskyy Kozakiv Luhanska] has made public an appeal to the oblast Council of People's Deputies. The appeal maintains that neither the president, the government, nor the Supreme Council of Ukraine is in control of the situation in the country. However, if President Leonid Kravchuk has merited no confidence, then the Supreme Council, in the opinion of the Cossacks, should not be dissolved. The appeal also demands autonomy for the oblast and that it to be turned into a subject of foreign economic relations. Regarding the referendum, in the opinion of the Cossacks, a local poll within the bounds of the oblast should be held at the same time as the referendum, in order to ascertain the opinion of Lugansk

oblast residents on dual citizenship, on the state status for the Russian language, on a federal system for the republic, and on eliminating customs houses and borders with Russia.

International Unions Aiding Striking Krasnodon Miners

LD2108082493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0712 GMT 21 Aug 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Alla Moiseyeva for TASS]

[Text] Kiev August 21 TASS—The International Federation of Trade Unions of Mineworkers and Allied Industries, which affiliates 66 unions from 55 countries, has rendered assistance to the striking miners of Krasnodon, eastern Ukraine, whose families found themselves in a difficult situation. 25,000 German marks, 20,000 of which were sent by the German Union of Mining and Metallurgical Workers, came right in time: The strike, triggered by the disinclination of the city authorities to tackle vitally important problems of miners, lasted for some 50 days.

According to Yuriy Berdnik, head of the International Department of the trade union, the union received 50,000 Austrian shillings from the Austrian Union of Mining, Metallurgical and Power Engineering Workers. The money will be sent to Krasnodon.

Commission Stresses Need To Develop Mining Technologies

AU2008133493 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 17 Aug 93 p 3

[Report by Vitaliy Lovynukov, chairman of Ukraine's State Committee for Mineral Resources: "There Are More Deposits. And More Problems?"]

[Text] After studying geological materials, Ukraine's State Commission for Mineral Reserves at Ukraine's State Committee for Geology has adopted a decision on the industrial exploitation of an explored deposit, the 100th since the founding of the committee. It is the Kovalivske deposit of decorative labradorite, which was explored by a team from the state geological enterprise "Pivnichukrheolohiya" [Northern Ukrainian Geology] in Zhytomyr Oblast. The 511,000 cubic meters of labradorite of category A+B has been approved by the commission with an excellent rating. It will be used as mineral raw materials by the joint enterprise "Kontur" [Contour], which mines monolith stone for export.

The State Commission for Mineral Reserves, which was created by Ukrainian presidential edict at the end of last year, conducted an expert analysis of the explored reserves and adopted a decision on their readiness for the large-scale industrial exploitation of deposits of coal, lignite, graphite, rock salt, subsurface water, decorative and wall-building stone, construction materials, and so on.

The new coal reserves and old reserves reestimated for new conditions amount to 270 million tonnes, and there are 10.2 million tonnes of lignite, 5.2 billion cubic meters of product [suputniy] gas, 36 million tonnes of graphite ore, 13.8 billion tonnes of rock salt, and 14 million cubic meters of decorative stone. The increase over this period of explored reserves of clay raw materials is sufficient to increase the capacities of the brick-manufacturing industry by 400-500 bricks a year. However, not all the reserves explored by geologists are being fully exploited in our country. The coal reserves in mines not included in the balance [pozabalansovi], but examined by the Ukrainian State Commission for Mineral Reserves, sometimes constitute up to 500 percent of those in the balance, but there are still no technical means to mine them. Between 30 and 40 percent of the balance reserves of lignite and all the coal beds with capacities not included in the balance remain in the earth's interior. They total up to 50 percent of the geological reserves. That is why Ukraine's State Commission for Mineral Reserves, in its conclusions, draws the attention of all mining, design, and scientific research organizations to the urgent need to create the technological means for extracting thin layers of coal and for utilizing product gas.

Opposition Leaders Favor Stronger Links with CIS

LD2108081293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0623 GMT 21 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Kiev August 21 TASS—Leaders of seven opposition parties and eleven public movements of Ukraine went on record in favour of the consolidation of the economic and political alliance of the CIS member states at their round-table conference on Friday. It was held on the initiative of several parties—the Labour Party, the Civil Congress of Ukraine and the Socialist Party. They are all unanimous in their support for the restoration of links between former USSR republics and for the statement of the heads of government of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, signed last July.

Participants in the conference adopted a statement, whose wording was made more precise during a short, but constructive discussion. It stresses the need for restoring as soon as possible the economic alliance of the now independent states. Participants in the conference regard the alliance not as an alternative to sovereignty, but as the main condition for the real independence of all former USSR republics. Speakers pointed out at the conference that a durable alliance is advantageous not only for Ukraine, which is living through a grave economic crisis, but also for all other CIS member states.

Government Spokesman on Conditions for Monetary Reform

AU2308091093 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 19 Aug 93 p 3

[Undated statement by Dmytro Tabachnyk, press secretary of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers: "Introduction of the Hryvnya: Rumors and Reality"]

[Text] Many irresponsible publications and commentaries have appeared in the media recently on a possible reform in Ukraine in the very near future.

We quite understand the population's special attention to the question that concerns every one of us. Most of these publications, however, view monetary reform and the introduction of the new national currency—the hryvnya—without a serious analysis of the economic need for implementing it in the situation that is taking shape today.

Such statements do nothing but agitate our society and provoke people into giving up settlements in Ukrainian karbovantsi, thereby further undermining the rate of exchange regarding other currencies. All of this, in turn, has a negative effect on our consumer market, intensifies the instability of our monetary and credits system, and causes huge losses that affect both the citizens and the state.

For that reason, I find it necessary, on behalf of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, to officially inform the population and state the Ukrainian Government's position.

The introduction of the hryvnya in conditions of financial instability, high inflation, and the absence of a stabilization currency fund cannot be justified. The government cannot look upon monetary reform as a purely technical fact—the replacement of one monetary unit for another. Neither is it a political act.

Monetary reform must only be considered in combination with a system of stabilization measures and decisions. Moreover, the decisions that are adopted by Ukraine's Supreme Council and government and by Ukraine's National Bank must be coordinated, unanimous, and well thought out. It would even be better if such decisions are adopted at a single center.

There are also purely technical problems that make it impossible to implement monetary reform in Ukraine in the near future: the unavailability of coins and banknotes in banking institutions and several others.

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers wants to assure the public that there can be no talk of introducing the hryvnya without resolving all these problems. This work cannot be accomplished over one week or month.

I particularly want to emphasize one fundamental aspect in order to refute the many rumors: An objective analysis of Ukraine's economy and the estimates by economic experts indicate that even when the time comes for the

hryvnya to be introduced, there will be no economic grounds in Ukraine to resort to a hryvnya-confiscation reform.

The government finds it necessary to reiterate: It would be impossible and adventurous to implement monetary reform in the conditions that have taken shape today, before the complex of aforementioned problems is resolved.

The new national currency cannot be sacrificed to those political forces that regard it as a means for their own political stabilization. This will be accompanied by an inevitable retribution that will constitute, first and foremost, a burden for the people of Ukraine.

Firearms Illegally Manufactured by Luhansk Plant

AU2308090893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 19 Aug 93 p 4

[Anatoliy Kobelnyuk report from Luhansk Oblast: "A Pen With Blood Ink"]

[Text] The Luhansk Machine-Tool Building Plant is one of the enterprises that was subject to conversion. However, it looks like the gunsmiths who work there do not want to forget their expertise. Shooting pens have

appeared in the city. One of them was found in a street by a six-year old boy and it shot him right through the heart.

Recently, another boy also perished from such a self-made weapon. Signal-flare pens for hunters are manufactured by the machine-tool building plant, but instead of signal flares, craftsmen fit them with capsules containing small-caliber cartridges. Not infrequently, such weapons are secretly taken out of the entrance checkpoint and may be bought from private persons. The militia has registered five cases of using shooting pens.

EC Specialists Inspecting Nuclear Power Station

LD2108140393 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0730 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Nikolayev oblast [dateline as received]—Within the framework of aid which is being given by the European Economic Community (EEC) to East European countries regarding increasing the operational safety of nuclear stations, specialists from the Spanish firm "Unidad Electrica S.A.," that specializes in producing control and diagnostic devices, in particular, sets of apparatus for detecting faults in metal, have been to the south Ukrainian nuclear electric power station. If the EEC Commission, which coordinates the distribution of aid, approves the firm's project regarding increasing safety at the south Ukrainian nuclear electric power station, the financing of it by G-7 countries will begin.

Armenia

Serzhik Sarkisyan Named Defense Minister

LD2108184093 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 1740 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, 21 August—This evening, by decree of the Armenian president, 39-year-old Serzhik Sarkisyan has been appointed defense minister.

Sarkisyan is a deputy of the Armenian Supreme Soviet and of the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet. He worked as the first secretary of the town komsomol committee in Stepanakert (the main town of the Nagorno-Karabakh republic) and as an assistant to the first secretary of the Nagorno-Karabakh Oblast party committee.

Former Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Manukyan, the acting defense minister since autumn last year, is staying in France, where he underwent a complex heart surgery, for a second month.

Government Supports New CSCE Plan With Reservations

NC2008145593 Yerevan *ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian* 1218 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, 20 Aug (ARMENPRES)—Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan sent a letter yesterday to Mario Raffaelli, chairman of the CSCE Minsk group, conveying Armenia's official reply.

The letter specifically states that the Armenian Government gives its consent to the new schedule aimed at implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 822 and 853, and it has no substantial objection to Annex 2 on "Guidelines for Joint Coordinating Commission."

However, Armenia has two reservations concerning Annex 1, which defines the zone of conflict. Armenia proposes that the 10-km width of the conflict zone between Armenia and Nakhichevan be reduced to 5 km. Second, our only north-south highway, which links Yerevan with the republic's southern parts and leads to the republic's southern international border, should not be included in the conflict zone.

Armenia also expresses the hope that despite the schedule, the annexes, which have informal legal standing, will be submitted for formal examination and adoption during the formal session of the Minsk group.

Presidential Spokesman Views UN Statement, Developments

NC2008192793 Yerevan *ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian* 1453 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, 20 Aug (ARMENPRES)—In his news conference today, Armenian Presidential Press Secretary Aram Abrahamyan touched on the 18 August statement of the UN Security Council presidency on the Karabakh

problem, describing it as "one-sided to a certain extent and based on information from one source."

As is known, Armenia also made recourse to the UN Security Council, particularly in connection with the Azerbaijani Air Force's barbaric bombing of Kapan on 18 August, but Azerbaijani aggression found no place in the UN statement, which only speaks in vague terms about the inadmissibility of the use of air power without mentioning who is using that force against whom.

Abrahamyan officially announced that Armenia has never used such an offensive weapon.

The press secretary said that Armenia's approach to the latest developments remain the same as the president set forth in his 7 August statement. He added: We are concerned about the intensification of the military operations between Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and Azerbaijan. We are now at a stage when any military action, no matter where it comes from, can directly threaten the regional countries, first of all the security of NKR and Azerbaijan. Hence, added Abrahamyan, we share the concern of the United Nations, the CSCE, and individual countries over developments taking place on the NKR-Azerbaijan border.

There are videotapes proving the bombing of Kapan, and Armenia is ready to invite representatives of international organizations, diplomats, and experts who can attest to the situation on Armenia's borders, particularly the situation in Kapan, Abrahamyan said.

We hope that following yesterday's high-level telephone conversation between Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Geydar Aliyev and thanks to similar contacts, Azerbaijan will put an end to attempts to drag Armenia into a war. Abrahamyan said: The latest developments—such as the cease-fire agreement in Abkhazia, the five-day cease-fire agreement between NKR and Azerbaijan, Armenia's positive reply to CSCE's schedule, and the Papazyan-Cetin meeting in Moscow—may help the peaceful resolution of the region's problems.

Nine Killed in Azerbaijani Air Raid on Kapan

LD2008140293 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 1318 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ARMENPRESS for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan, 20 Aug—According to the ARMENPRESS agency, as a result of an attack by aircraft of the Azerbaijan air force on the Armenian town of Kapan, nine peaceful inhabitants have been killed and 34 wounded, four OF THEM critically.

Arutyunyan, first deputy of the Kapan town Executive Committee, has said that a government commission has begun work in the town. In accordance with its decision, the families of those killed have been given one-time payments.

Air Defenses Under Investigation

NC2008181593 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1453 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, 20 Aug (ARMENPRES)—The Armenian president considers the level of air defense organization in certain regions woefully insufficient. At his instruction a government commission was set up that will study the latest incidents in Kapan and Vardenis. The guilty will be severely punished.

Azerbaijani Shelling Said To Continue Despite Cease-Fire

NC2008151293 Yerevan SNARK in English 1340 GMT 20 Aug 93

[“No Stability, Is it Armistice?”—SNARK headline]

[Text] Stepanakert, August 20 (SNARK)—The Karabakh Department of Press and Information told SNARK that both sides are following the armistice concluded for a period of 5 days.

SNARK's reporter from Stepanakert told that Azeris are shelling the Karabakh positions from military bases at the Agh-Burun settlement at the east of the Martuninskiy region. Azeris are using guns, artillery and “Grad” launches.

Azeris are also shelling the Karabakh positions at the south of the Karabakh front from the territory of the Kubatliinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy regions.

The situation at the other part of the front is characterized as stable.

Karabakh Foreign Minister Says Cease-Fire Still Honored

NC2108120393 Yerevan SNARK in English 0938 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Stepanakert, August 21, (SNARK)—Today the Karabakh Foreign Minister Arkadiy Gukasayan denied the Baku reports on the active military action at the border with Iran. As a result of these actions, Baku states, some missiles were exploded on the territory of Iran. The armistice is being followed, Arkadiy Gukasayan told journalists.

The Karabakh military officials explain separate military actions Azeris are undertaking at the southern parts of the front, in particular, in Martuninskiy direction, by the existence of non-controlled units. The main goal is to break bilateral agreement on cease-fire.

Meanwhile the contacts between Baku and Stepanakert are going on to organize the meeting of the Azerbaijani and Karabakh high authorities.

Settlements Bombed

NC2308093093 Yerevan SNARK in English 0910 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Stepanakert, August 23 (SNARK)—The Karabakh Department of Press and Information told SNARK that Azerbaijan violated the agreement of 5 day armistice. Yesterday and this morning the Azerbaijani Army several times bombed the settlements of the Martuninskiy and Gadrutskiy regions. There are victims among civil population.

Meanwhile SNARK's reporter from Stepanakert informed today is the last day of the settled agreement. It started on August 18. In five-day period during the bilateral contacts the authorized Karabakh and Azerbaijani representatives should have organized the meeting of the Azerbaijani and Karabakh leaders. The Karabakh Department of Press and Information told there are no agreement on the point. This fact explains Azerbaijani air raids to the Karabakh peace settlements.

The Karabakh Department of Press and Information reported the Azerbaijani Forces have been leaving Fizuli for two days. The Karabakh military officials explain this fact with the Karabakh Forces distribution around the Fizuli town. The Karabakh detachments managed not only to neutralize great emplacements but also establish the control over some strategic hills in the nearest closeness from Fizuli.

Ter-Petrosyan Leaves on Visit to Turkmenistan

LD2308123393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1144 GMT 23 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 23 Aug—Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the president of Armenia, left on a visit to Turkmenistan today. He is heading a state delegation from the republic. A broad range of questions related to political and economic cooperation between the two republics will be discussed in Ashgabat. During the visit it is planned to sign a treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance between Armenia and Turkmenistan, as well as 17 intergovernmental agreements, including one on the supply of Turkmen gas to Armenia.

The visit will last until tomorrow evening, the press service of the Armenian head of state said.

Work To Reopen Nuclear Plant Continuing

NC2008152593 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1406 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, 20 Aug (ARMENPRES)—The Armenian authorities are continuing to carry out target-oriented work for the reopening of the Armenian nuclear plant.

Reporters were told about this today by Armenian Presidential Press Secretary Aram Abrahamyan. He also

informed them that a high-ranking Magate-1 [not further identified] delegation will visit Armenia next week. Armenia's membership in that organization and matters pertaining to the reopening of the nuclear plant will be discussed during the visit.

Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan visited Metsamor today to inspect the ongoing work in the nuclear plant.

Azerbaijan

Further on Situation, Fighting in Fizuli

Foreign Diplomats Fired On

NC2008141793 Baku TURAN in English 1222 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 20 (TURAN)—A group of the representatives of the diplomatic missions of the UNO, the USA, Russia, China, the UK, Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Greece, Pakistan suffered the firing of the Armenian Armed Forces in Fizulinskiy region of Azerbaijan.

The firing lasted for a half an hour. The Azeri units opened counter-attacking fire and helped the diplomats out of the zone of the firing, the press-center of the Azeri Defense Ministry reports.

Armenian Attack Repulsed

NC2208180693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center's communique is as follows:

The situation in the southwestern areas of the Republic is tense. The Armenian occupationists, who besieged Fizuli city six days ago, launched a three-pronged attack with many men and armored vehicles to break the resistance of the defenders last night. According to information we have received until 1400 today, the defenders of the city repulsed the enemy attacks. Meanwhile, the Armenian artillery units heavily shelled Fizuli and the only road that links that city with other areas in the region all day today.

Last night's enemy attack on Kubatliniski Rayon from the military base in Kornidzor in Armenia has been obstructed. A [word indistinct] artillery gun has been seized from the Armenians in the fighting that has taken place close to [placename indistinct].

The enemy attempted to attack Gulistan in Gorenboyskiy Rayon last night. Our fighters obstructed their advance.

The border areas in Tauzskiy and Kedabekskiy Rayons were fired on from Armenia this morning.

Forces Said To Leave

LD2308100393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Aug 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] On 22 August Armenian formations occupied the Azerbaijani rayon center of Fizuli, southeast of Nagorno-Karabakh. As the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reports, the Azerbaijani troops which were surrounded were able to break through the circle and leave the city.

Meanwhile, according to reports from informed sources in Yerevan, the Azerbaijani troops left Fizuli of their own accord. The same source reports that Karabakh units were ordered not to enter the city.

Armenians Control 42 Areas

NC2308143593 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1224 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 23.08.93. (ASSA-IRADA)—Armenian troops have captured 42 out of 73 residential areas of Fizulinskiy Province of Azerbaijan after Armenian troops captured Fizuli yesterday. The battles between them and the last Azeri units supporting the retreat of Fizuli Garrison were going on in its eastern suburbs (villages Yukhari-Aiba-Sanli, Seidmahmudly and Mahmudly), as ASSA-IRADA reporter was told in the Defence Ministry. Today, on August, 23, the frontline runs 5 km to the east and 10-13 KM to south of Fizuli. The artillery fire at the villages of Dzhebrailskiy and bordering villages of Kubatliniski and Zangelanski Provinces of Azerbaijan.

Fighting, Troop Movements Elsewhere Reported

Armenian Offensive Stopped

NC2008150793 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1201 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 20.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Armenian offensive in direction of Iran was stopped yesterday, August 19, the local self-defense forces together with sub-units of Azerbaijan Army could dislodge Armenians from town Dzhebrail, ASSA-IRADA reported from hostilities zone. Azerbaijan troops retain the village Goradiz and the whole part along the frontier, ASSA-IRADA was told at the Defence Ministry. Last night and today, August 20, the settlements of Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy districts, situated on the border with Iran are exposed to intensive tank and artillery firing. There are ruins [as received] in Goradiz and neighbouring villages. According to the commander of local frontier post, a few artillery projectile crossed the bordering river Araz and exploded on the territory of Iranian settlement Aslanduz. Today the battles were going on near the village Gulyabird of the bordering Kubatliniski district. This village and the neighbouring village Muradkhanly were exposed to firing by three military helicopter MI-24

of Armenian Armed Forces yesterday. The bordering settlements of Zangelanskiy and Kubatinskiy districts were also exposed to firing from the territory of Armenia.

Dzhebrail's Fall Denied

TA2108181293 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Report by Naci Oner in Baku]

[Text] It has been announced that the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry statement issued two days ago saying that Dzhebrail had fallen into the hands of the Armenians was the result of severed communications with the region. The Defense Ministry issued a statement today saying that Azerbaijani reinforcements that arrived at the last moment prevented the Armenian forces from occupying Dzhebrail. The Armenian forces have now positioned themselves near the outskirts of Dzhebrail.

Meanwhile, the Armenians are firing on Fizuli, Zangelan, and Kubatly. The civilians fleeing from Armenian attacks are continuing to use the main highway near the Iranian border.

Geydar Aliyev has said that as a result of the Armenian attacks, close to one million people have had to leave their homes since 1989. This is about one-seventh of the Azerbaijani population.

Defense Ministry Update

NC2208071693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center's communique is as follows:

The situation in and around Fizuli and Dzhebrail was tense today. The enemy units rained uninterrupted fire on the two cities from the positions around them. The enemy attacks in the northern part of Gulabek in Lachinskiy Rayon have been repulsed after several days of fighting. Our troops maintain their control on Gulabek.

The border areas in Kubatinskiy Rayon were fired on from Armenia this morning.

The Armenian military forces launched an attack in the Agdere area in Khodzhavendskiy Rayon at about 1000 today. Infantry units and tanks were used in the attack. The enemy units suffered casualties in the fighting and were forced to retreat at 1600.

The peaceful situation was disrupted in the northwestern part of Azerbaijan once again today. The border areas in [name indistinct], Kazakhskiy, and Tauzskiy Rayons were fired on from Armenia.

Further Report

NC2208140193 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1242 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 22.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Armenian military forces started hostilities towards the east, inside of Azerbaijan using 12 tanks supported by infantry troops along the road Agdam-Khodzhavend, since yesterday evening, Armenian tanks moved several kilometers in the direction of village Ovshar of Agdzhabedi province, located at the distance of 30 km from the border of former Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. During the whole day fightings continued. At the evening movement of Armenian forces was stopped. According to preliminary information from Azerbaijan side 5 losses and 20 wounded are reported.

The situation in Fizuli and Dzhebrail Provinces remains very complicated. Armenian troops are holding heights at the north of Dzhebrail and continue to shell the town suburban village of southern Fizuli from there. Concentration of Armenian armoured vehicles in the direction of Iranian border is reported.

It is already third day the fightings continue around the village Gylabird of Kubatinskiy Province located at the south-western border with Armenia. Violating state border one again Armenian commandership dislocated armoured vehicles and soldiers from military base Kornidzor at the Armenia, to the north of Kubatinskiy Province, today, on August 22, the fightings continued till the morning here. On August 21, starting since 12.15 P.M. the villages of Kazakh and Tanzskiy Provinces at the north western part of Azerbaijan have been shelled by rockets and artillery. Several missiles made damages at the town Kazakh.

Defense Ministry Denies Armenian Allegation on Raid

NC2008143093 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1011 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 20.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—The Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan resolutely denies the information of Armenian sources about alleged air bombing of Armenian territory and the firing at residential areas which brought about casualties among peaceful population on August 18 and 19.

"Such information is nothing but an attempt to distract the attention of the world from the undeniable facts of Armenian aggression in 4 south-western provinces of Azerbaijan (Fizulinskiy Dzhebrailskiy, Kubatinskiy, Zangelanskiy)", the Commander-in-Chief General Zaur Rzayev said.

Guseynov Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Border Situation

*NC2008191193 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 20 Aug 93*

[Text] The Azerbaijan Council of Ministers has held a meeting in Ganja on the recent situation in the border areas. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Surat Guseynov. Leading officials of republican ministries and administrative establishments in the border rayons and Defense Ministry employees attended the meeting. The meeting participants remembered the fighters who were killed in the clashes with a minute of silence. Speakers called for serious measures to strengthen discipline in the Army, prevent desertions, obstruct the uncontrolled activities of the illegal armed groups, and end provocative activities.

The speakers also criticized the [words indistinct] and the deficiencies in the arrangements made for the call up of military personnel.

Prime Minister Surat Guseynov summed up the meeting. A pertinent decision was adopted.

Russia's Kolokolov, Delegation Arrive for Talks

*LD2008191793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1854
GMT 20 Aug 93*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Shulman, Sevindzh Abdullayeva]

[Text] Baku August 20 TASS—"Russia comes out for deepening equal relations with Azerbaijan in the interests of the two sovereign states and its people," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov, who arrived in Baku on Friday [20 August] night, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

According to Kolokolov, he was authorized by the Russian president to hold talks with the Azeri leadership on problems of mutual importance for the two countries, and lay the ground for expanding contacts between them in different fields.

During a one-day visit prospects for the development of bilateral relations and possibilities for mutually advantageous cooperation are expected to be discussed, Kolokolov said.

According to Kolokolov, the talks will focus on problems of the settlement of the Azeri-Armenian conflict. In this connection Kolokolov pointed out that Russia's position remains invariable—Russia comes out for territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, unconditional withdrawal of all Armenian troops from occupied territories and the continuation of efforts aimed at reaching peace at the negotiating table.

The Russian diplomat pointed out that during a meeting with acting Azeri president, Chairman of the Azeri Parliament Geydar Aliyev, Russia's proposals would be

expressed aimed at the stabilisation of the situation in the region. For this purpose special envoy Vladimir Kazimirov, head of the Russian mediatory mission on the settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh, was included in the delegation to the talks and was expected to make a number of statements.

Meeting With Aliyev

*NC2008190393 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 20 Aug 93*

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, today received a visiting Russian delegation, headed by Russia's deputy foreign minister. Vladimir Kazimirov, President Boris Yeltsin's special ambassador, is a member of the delegation. The officials discussed the possibility of improving relations between the two countries, touched on the Karabakh dispute, and stressed the need to upgrade economic and political relations.

Vefa Kulizade, adviser on foreign policy affairs; Deputy Prime Minister Rasul Kuliyeu; Acting Foreign Minister Albert Salamov; Ramiz Rizayev, Azerbaijan's plenipotentiary representative in Moscow; and Valter Shonia, Russia's ambassador to Azerbaijan, attended the meeting. State Secretary Lale Shovket Gadzhieva received the delegation after the meeting.

Upgraded Ties Sought

*LD2008194493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1922
GMT 20 Aug 93*

[By ITAR-TASS and AZERTAC correspondents]

[Text] Baku August 20 TASS—Uncivilized "divorce" of former Soviet republics is not the reason for breaking of all economic, cultural and humanitarian relations to the prejudice of independent states formed on their territories, Azeri parliament head Geydar Aliyev and Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov said here today.

They are convinced the bilateral relations broken in many spheres must be restored as soon as possible and consolidated in the immediate future.

The interlocutors were unanimous in the opinion, the equal and mutually beneficial relations between Russia and Azerbaijan must be upgraded. In the words of Geydar Aliyev, "There is no time to waste, we must pass over from declarations to deeds to be started from deeper political and economic contacts between the two countries".

Kolokolov confirmed Russia welcomes independent Azerbaijan and calls for succession in development of centuries-long Azeri-Russian relations. In his opinion, this will do good to both states, whose economy, science and culture have been affected by the current "super-sovereignization".

The meeting participants also dwell on the Armenian-Azeri settlement around Nagorno-Karabakh. The Russian diplomat noted Russia stands for peaceful stage-by-stage solution to the most grave problem. At the same time, Russia, being a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, calls for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from occupied Azeri territories and voted on Thursday for the adoption of a corresponding resolution to confirm the two previous documents of the Security Council.

Kolokolov said Russia is ready not only to be a mediator in the conflict but also take a tough stand as regards sides, which violate the international obligations.

The sides stressed they are alarmed with the fate of five Russian servicemen sentenced by the Azeri Supreme Court to capital punishment for participation in combat operations on republican territory. The interlocutors noted the solution of this complicated issue must not infringe national interests of Azerbaijan but stressed humaneness will certainly help positive development of bilateral relations.

More on Aliyev Remarks

NC2108170493 Baku TURAN in English 1117 GMT 21 Aug 93

["Ignorance of Russian Factor Puts Serious Problems Before New States"—TURAN headline]

[Text] Baku (August 21) TURAN—"Relations between Azerbaijan and Russia must be of higher level. We need not just simple declarations, but concrete steps, because interests of Russian and Azerbaijan nations, economic and geopolitic interests of Russia and Azerbaijan are need that", told at yesterday's meeting with delegation of MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] of Russia chairman of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev.

G. Aliyev pointed, that Russian-speaking population of Azerbaijan had no practically problems, and their position could not be compared with the position of Russians in another regions of Russia. G. Aliyev thinks that the matter was not only Russian citizens, but wide complex of inter-governmental relations.

G. Aliyev informed the guests on the situation in the country in details, mostly pointing Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict. G. Aliyev noted, that unfortunately information on participation of Russian soldiers in Armenian advance on south-western regions of Azerbaijan had been recently heard.

The head of Russian delegation, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of RF [Russian Federation] Boris Kolokolov stressed, that Russia stood for territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Touching upon Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict, B. Kolokolov told, that was very serious and many-sided problem and it could be solved only stage by stage. B. Kolokolov thinks, that all factors, which can somehow influence successful development of

peacemaking process, have to be taken into account. B. Kolokolov also noted, that Russians positive experience in solving Abkhaz problem could be used in settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict.

In the case of the talks both sides stressed the necessity of restoration of previous ruined relations and strengthening them where they still exist, "unfortunately we build everything very hard, but we can ruin everything been built very quickly", noted G. Aliyev.

In his talks with TURAN's correspondent, B. Kolokolov told, that republics, which in their international relations had not taken into account Russian factor, were facing serious problems now.

Aliyev Comments on Yeltsin Call

NC2208185193 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, said in talks with members of a Russian Foreign Ministry delegation that Azerbaijan and Russia must establish high-level relations. The delegation arrived in Baku on 20 August.

Geydar Aliyev applauded [alkislamis] Russia's participation in the process to find a peaceful solution to the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan and said that a way that satisfies all sides must be found so that the desired results may be achieved. Regarding the 500,000 ethnic Russians in Azerbaijan, Aliyev said that he believes that the relations with the Russian-speaking people in Azerbaijan [words indistinct].

Geydar Aliyev stressed that many Azerbaijani citizens live in Russia and noted that the improvement of relations between the two countries at the state level will have favorable effects on the life of Russians in Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis in Russia.

Aliyev briefed the delegation members on his recent telephone conversation with President Yeltsin. He said that they discussed the question of the five Russian citizens who have been sentenced to death for taking part in Armenia's combat operations against Azerbaijan. Aliyev stressed that he is convinced that steps should be taken by the two sides to resolve that problem.

On his part, the head of the delegation said that Russia wishes to restore and improve relations with the republics of the former Soviet Union. Regarding the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan, he noted Russia's role in the adoption of UN Security Council Resolutions 822 and 853, which condemned the spread of combat operations in the region. He asserted: The matter is not a simple problem. And Russia is prepared to take more effective measures to influence the sides that have failed to implement the UN Security Council resolutions.

The guest disclosed that Vladimir Kazimirov, who is the Russian Foreign Ministry ambassador for special tasks and President Boris Yeltsin's personal representative to

the talks on Nagorno-Karabakh, conveyed a letter from President Yeltsin to Geydar Aliyev to inform him on the matter. The letter explained Russia's position on the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan in detail.

Second Meeting With Aliyev

NC2208065893 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 0806 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Baku 21.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—The problems of cooperating between Azerbaijan and Russia in fields of the people's education and ecology have been discussed today August 21 at the second meeting of Geydar Aliyev with the delegation of the Foreign Ministry of Russian Federation. This delegation visited Ministries of People's Education and Ecology. Expansion of direct relations between the universities of two countries joint efforts in elimination excessive pollution of the Caspian Sea-Azerbaijan and Russia can do more in these fields as independent states than at the time when they were members of the USSR said Boris Kolokolov head of the delegation of Russian Federation at the meeting. Geydar Aliyev emphasized in his speech: It's important that there is mutual understanding between us.

Envoy Kazimirov Interviewed

NC2108164893 Baku TURAN in English 1117 GMT 21 Aug 93

["Russia Offers Its More Active Participation in Settlement of Azerbaijan-Armenian conflict"—TURAN headline]

[Text] Baku, Aug 21 (TURAN)—Russia is not satisfied with peacemaking activity of the CSCE Minsk Group on Nagorno-Karabakh, told special ambassador of MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] of RF [Russian Federation] Vladimir Kazimirov in his interview to TURAN's correspondent. He has arrived as a member of Russian delegation.

"CSCE has no experience in realization of large peacemaking operations, as this European organization has no corresponding structures. With an account of plenty of conflicts scattered on the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia, difficulties of CSCE are growing,"—he pointed.

Russian delegation stands for subject studying of the questions, told V. Kazimirov. He thinks, that position of Hankendi, which can be expressed by formula "neither yes, nor no", referring to the necessity of specifying the plan are just comfortable form of delaying the problem. Plan of adjustment has to provide for reliability of cease-fire and mechanism, excluding its restoration, — considers V. Kazimirov. To his words, if this reliability be achieved, it would speed up withdrawal of Armenian forces from occupied Azeri territories.

V. Kazimirov has also backed bilateral relations between warring parties, as the most effective way of settlement of the conflict.

Further Comment by Kazimirov

NC2108172793 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1348 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Baku 21.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Russia is not indifferent to the Karabakh conflict said Vladimir Kazimirov roving ambassador of Russian Federation answering the journalists' questions. Mr. Kazimirov arrived in Azerbaijan together with the delegate of Russian Foreign Ministry. Russia acts both as an independent mediator between the parties of the conflict and the participation of the CSCE Minsk Group and the permanent member of the UN Security Council. Touching upon the probability of disposition of Russian troops in the conflict zone Kazimirov stated that one shouldn't exclude it. But of course if the conflicting parties recognize expediency of such decision [sentence as received]. As for Russian soldiers sentenced to the capital punishment by Azerbaijan court ambassador said: We hope that they will be transferred to the justice bodies of Russian Federation.

Kazimirov on Possibility of Peace

LD2308142093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 23 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku August 23 TASS—It is possible to resolve the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in the near future if appropriate mechanisms are developed, Vladimir Kazimirov, Russian ambassador at large who mediates the peace settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh, said.

In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday, Kazimirov said that one of the main difficulties which has yet to be overcome is the tremendous mistrust between the warring sides. Mutual trust and confidence are vital for ending the war and preventing its recurrence. Kazimirov believes this could be achieved if both sides show political will in order to stop the armed conflict and solve it by peaceful means.

Another important aspect of conflict settlement is the disbandment of uncontrolled armed groups which should be detected and disarmed. This will minimise the possibility of new shootings and prevent separate incidents from developing into large-scale hostilities. Kazimirov stressed that these aspects of the Karabakh problem should be solved at a negotiation table though a political dialogue.

Cabinet Orders Russian Transport Pact Implementation

NC2008154993 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Council of Ministers has issued instructions that arrangements be made to implement the agreement Azerbaijan and Russia concluded on the conditions that will apply in their mutual relations and

on the principles of their cooperation to facilitate transportation between the two countries. The agreement was signed on 14 July.

The Council of Ministers Press Center informed AZERTAC that the two sides agreed to improve and deepen their cooperation in the economic, scientific, and technical fields on matters related to all means of transportation, create favorable conditions for the transportation of passengers and freight between Azerbaijan and Russia, and facilitate transit transportation. They also agreed that the representatives of the two countries in the transportation domain be exempt from taxes and state charges.

Guseynov Talks With Secessionist Leader 'Unsuccessful'

NC2008141093 Baku TURAN in English 1222 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 20 (TURAN)—Today the three-days term, given to the Prime-Minister Surat Guseynov by Milli Mejlis for resolving the separatist problem in the south of Azerbaijan, where the illegal military group headed by the Colonel Alikram Gumbatov have declared the Talysh-Mugan Republic, runs out.

To the unofficial reports, the talks of S. Guseynov with A. Gumbatov were unsuccessful.

A reliable source reported, that A. Gumbatov recalled his battalions from the battlefield and now fortifies his positions in Lenkoran. He drove away the representatives of the Islamic party, who offered him to halt the activities aimed at splitting Azerbaijan.

Making a speech by the Lenkoran TV, Gumbatov stated, that he was ready for the talks with the central government, in case Milli Mejlis cancels its decree on taking firm measures against him and G. Aliyev begs his pardon publicly.

Meanwhile Surat Guseynov visited Ganja yesterday, where he enlist the support of his adherents.

Guseynov-Gumbatov Meeting

NC2208135193 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1242 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 22.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—The meeting of Surat Guseynov, the prime minister of the Republic, was not shown by national television. The problem of so called "Talysh-Mugan Republic" [TMR] the prime-minister of the Republic recently. [sentence as received] Alikram Gumbatov so called president of "TMR" made a speech at the meeting and explained his views about the last events. The prime-minister noted that nobody will be allowed to create republic inside the Republic, ASSA-IRADA was informed at the press-center of cabinet ministers of Azerbaijan Republic. Alikram Gumbatov is not willing to refuse his claims and demands liquidation of Milli Mejlis's decree, dated August 16,

according to which his activities were considered illegal. This meeting was not shown by the national television and it puzzled the supporters of prime-minister. Aypara Aliyev, the main advisor of the prime-minister said: "To my regret the meeting, in which Gumbatov explained his actions was not on the air. Although, large reportage from the meeting was needed to be on the air."

Gumbatov, Supporters Said Violating Constitution, Laws

PM2308095793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 93 First Edition p 6

[Unattributed report from the "Commonwealth Countries: Events, Facts, and Commentary" column: "Baku"]

[Text] Many cases of violation of the Constitution and laws of Azerbaijan by Alikram Gumbatov and his supporters, who have seized power in the south of the republic, were cited at a session of the National Assembly. The speeches by Internal Affairs Minister Vagif Novruzov, National Security Minister Nariman Imanov, and General Prosecutor Ali Omarov make clear that "as a result of these criminal actions the heads of executive power in seven southern rayons have been removed from office and members of the law enforcement agencies operating there have been taken hostage, roughed up, and subjected to insults and violence."

Cases of economic crimes, which have paralyzed the economy of the south of the republic, were also cited at the session. According to the leaders of the power ministries and the General Prosecutor's Office, "the Gumbatov grouping is backed by mafia clans, which finance it." There is information of links between Gumbatov and Hezbollah, the extremist Islamic party, the internal affairs minister reported. The parliamentarians were also informed that the "Gumbatov grouping numbers 3,000 armed men and possesses 80 pieces of armored equipment."

Law enforcement agency leaders consider that events in the south of the republic are developing in a dangerous direction—they are designed to dismember Azerbaijan.

Aliyev Accuses Mutalibov of Provoking Political Crisis

LD2008193393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1616 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku August 20 TASS—Last week in Azerbaijan proved once again acting President Geydar Aliyev is a skilled politician. The acting president is opposed by two forces in the republic: on one hand, ex-President Abulfaz Elchibey and the Popular Front he heads and, on the other hand, ex-President Ayaz Mutalibov. The latter's name was made public at Monday's meeting of the National Assembly, when discussing the situation in the

Azeri south, where an armed group headed by retired Colonel Alikram Gumbatov seized power and proclaimed a republic on territory of seven Azeri regions.

In the words of Geydar Aliyev, the southern developments are backed up by ex-President Mutalibov, who aimed to provoke another political crisis and achieved his goal in the change of leadership. Mafia clans, interested in the return of Mutalibov, provide the separatists with money and arms.

The parliament discussion revealed the name of another member of the "tripartite union" backing the southern problem. He is ex-Azeri Defence Minister Rakhim Gaziyeu, who was described by Aliyev as "the instigator of separatism in Azerbaijan and the most dangerous person, whose activities aim to divide the republic". In the words of Aliyev, Gaziyeu has repeatedly said he wants to become the president himself.

The acting president gave to understand Prime Minister Surat Guseynov will carry the responsibility for southern developments, being the official to initiate the settlement of the southern problem and a personal acquaintance of Alikram Gumbatov. The week-long term requested by the prime minister for the southern stabilization was cut by Aliyev to three days. At the same time, Aliyev said he wants to solve the republican problems together with Surat Guseynov and is ready to share his political experience and knowledge with the latter.

Some observers believe this is important against the background of recent rumors on the premier's liking of ex-President Ayaz Mutalibov.

Aliyev, Guseynov Said Parting Ways; Moscow Implicated

NC2008164793 *Istanbul TURKIYE in Turkish*
17 Aug 93 p 14

[Report by Hasan Yilmaz]

[Text] Ankara/Baku—The rebel officer Surat Guseynov, who took power by forcing Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey out of Baku, and Geydar Aliyev, who made himself chairman of the National Assembly, have now parted ways.

It is being claimed that former President Ayaz Mutalibov had a role in the break up of the Guseynov-Aliyev alliance and that he wrote the entire scenario.

According to Mutalibov's scenario, Geydar Aliyev was used by Surat Guseynov to topple Elchibey. It is being reported that Aliyev recently figured out the plot but it was too late. Sources close to the administration report that the National Assembly has stripped Aliyev of his powers and has handed them to Guseynov.

Russia's Worry on Sphere of Influence

It was reported from the very start that Mutalibov, who reportedly is residing in the premises of the Russian

generals in Moscow, was behind the coup against Elchibey. Ahmet Karaca, secretary general of the Azerbaijani Cultural Society and the Azerbaijan National Musavat Party, said that Elchibey's return to Baku will upset those currently in power. Ahmet Karaca linked the incidents in Azerbaijan to "Russia's concern over sphere of influence."

Scenarios Emanating From Moscow

It is being reported that Elchibey's ouster from Baku and his replacement by Aliyev were based completely on a "scenario from Moscow." It is being claimed that Russian troops who are still in Ganja are the real support behind Surat Guseynov, whose father-in-law is a Russian general. Yet another claim is that in taking over power in cooperation with Aliyev, Guseynov was actually working to prepare the legal groundwork for Mutalibov's return. According to this scenario, Colonel Alikram Gumbatov, who rebelled in Lenkoran and Mugan regions, being himself Mutalibov's man, acted in cahoots with Surat Guseynov and in this way played his part in the game.

Another Moscow-sourced scenario concerns Elchibey, who announced that he will return to Baku tomorrow. On his return to Baku, Elchibey will not be detained but will be taken under custody on the pretext of "ensuring his personal security." This would mean tying his hands. In this way the 29 August referendum will have the desired outcome, namely with Elchibey ending up a loser. In the second stage of this scenario, Aliyev will be stripped of his powers. Soon after the referendum, some 200 supporters of Mutalibov in the Supreme Soviet will make their move, stripping Aliyev of his powers and electing Ayaz Mutalibov in his place.

In Ahmet Karaca's opinion, "if a referendum is held, Azerbaijan will come under Moscow's thumb."

The outcome of the critical developments in Azerbaijan is eagerly awaited in Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Georgia

New Prime Minister Patsatsia Addresses Parliament

LD2008155993 *Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian* 1300 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Excerpts] As you know, a new Georgian prime minister has been confirmed. He is the administrator of Zugdidi, Mr. Otar Patsatsia. [passage omitted]

Mr. Otar Patsatsia was born in 1929 in the town of Zugdidi. He graduated from Leningrad Technological Institute where he studied at the department of cellulose and paper production. After 1955 he worked in Zugdidi as technologist. He has seven years of experience of work in the Communist Party apparatus. In 1970 he defended a degree at the Leningrad Forestry Academy.

Deputies debated Otar Patsatsia's nomination in parliament.

Before the voting took place, Mr. Otar Patsatsia addressed parliament:

[Begin Patsatsia recording] [passage indistinct] Regardless of who is elected prime minister of Georgia today, we will achieve nothing unless there is political stability and the nation unites. This is my opinion. This is why it is necessary, first of all, to unite the nation and achieve political stability.

As for the economic reform, it must be implemented. There cannot be a different view on this. In my opinion, a blueprint must be found that will reflect the current political situation. This must be implemented step by step.

As for presenting my program [words indistinct], I agree with you that if I were a member of parliament, I would also make this remark. [passage omitted in which Patsatsia explains he was only nominated yesterday and so cannot present an economic program; in nominating the new prime minister, Shevardnadze said that Patsatsia was not ready to present to parliament his economic program yet, which prompted criticism from some deputies]

Generally, I am not an overly ambitious man. I cannot be described as such. If something is necessary for my nation, I am ready to assume my duty and use my energy for my nation. [passage omitted]

It is necessary to compromise. We must study the issue of Mingrelia deeply. Despite the fact that a commission has been set up, this decision remained on paper and nothing in effect has been implemented. This irritates people even more. We should ask ourselves what we have learned and avoid such mistakes in the future.

I deem it appropriate to say again that my policy has been a policy of conciliation. Too much blood has been spilled in Mingrelia, Abkhazia, and Georgia as a whole. This policy can be described as Patsatsia's policy for reconciling armed formations and government forces in Mingrelia. This is what I thought in the past and what I think now. There has been enough bloodshed. We must find a common language and make compromises. There is no other way out.

I am a pragmatist in life. There are decisions which are adopted by government but which are not implemented in reality. In situations like this pragmatic decisions are necessary. I am taking the responsibility for these difficult decisions.

The nation should unite. The economy should be revived. Unless Georgians return to work and discipline in work is restored soon, there will be no progress regardless of what structures we set up or ministers we replace. The necessity for good discipline and accountability must be felt by every working person, be it a minister, committee chairman, or anybody else. Unless we implement this, nothing will work even if we have 10 Patsatsias or anybody else as prime minister. This is my

position and I am responsible to you and Georgia as a whole for what I am saying.

The whole of Georgia is watching this today and expecting from us something new. I cannot promise to the people and parliament that I will be a great reformer and will implement big changes in the economy. I will try to do what I can and use all my knowledge and energy for the benefit of my people and native land. [end recording]

Shevardnadze Threatens To Resign

LD2008205293 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1510 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 20 Aug—According to an IBERIA correspondent, yesterday, during the consultations on the issue of the appointment of a new prime minister, bitter clashes occurred between MP's and the head of state. Eduard Shevardnadze said that if crude pressure was sustained, he would resign.

Patsatsia Speaks to Reporters

LD2008155293 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1510 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 20 Aug—According to an IBERIA correspondent Otar Patsatsia, the newly elected prime minister of Georgia, told journalists during an interview that he supported the stage-by-stage conversion to a market economy and opposed shock therapy. Privatization must be urgently implemented but a model should be created that will be beneficial for the republic. When speaking about nominations to the Cabinet of Ministers, he said that he would discuss this issue with the head of state in a few days' time. He also added that he had no disagreements on any issue of principle with Eduard Shevardnadze.

A reconciliatory policy should be conducted in the Samegrelo region; the nation must unite.

As for relations with Russia, Georgia and Russia have to establish political as well as economic relations.

Patsatsia Views Relations With Russia

LD2308132393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1226 GMT 23 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Aug—The new Cabinet of Ministers of Georgia, the composition of which is to be approved by a parliamentary session, will be formed on a coalition basis and must be able to implement the new economic program. This was revealed by Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia in an interview given today to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He has arrived in Moscow for a meeting with Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The credo of the new prime minister is in the economy having priority over politics. "Politics should not be based on an unstable economic foundation," he said.

While admitting that the economic situation in Georgian is grave, Patsatsia does not consider it to be "critical." He sees the way out of the situation in the mutual settlement of political and economic issues and in signing a treaty with Russia. He thinks that the principles of Russia granting Georgia credits will be discussed at the coming meeting with Chernomyrdin. Economic cooperation with Russia should be built on the foundation of a bilateral agreement.

As for the conflict in Abkhazia, the prime minister thinks that the two sides should carry out a policy of compromise and reconciliation. The status of Abkhazia will be defined by the new constitution of Georgia. Patsatsia said that it most likely that Abkhazia will remain as an autonomous republic within Georgia. At the same time he considers the conflict in Abkhazia as the stumbling block in the way of concluding bilateral agreements with Russia.

Political Figures Comment

NC2108164693 Yerevan SNARK in English 0938 GMT 21 Aug 93

["Commentaries on New Georgian Prime Minister Appointment"—SNARK headline]

[Text] Tbilisi, August 21 (SNARK)—SNARK's reporter asked some Georgian political figures to comment on new Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia's appointment:

Irakli Tsereteli, the national independence party leader: "I refer to today's choice sharp negative. It would worsen the current political situation and release Shevardnadze from responsibility. I think that there mustn't exist any prime minister post. Leader of the state and the parliament must exist divided and a party's leader must be the parliament's chairman".

Tengiz Kitovani, former defence minister, "Patsatsia is a talented person, appropriate candidature. But thinking politically, his appointment to the post would draw in some difficulties. In the western Georgia the appointment would be misapprehended, thus the region is not "Shevardnadze's region and his advanced candidate wouldn't be supported" [quotation marks as received].

Tedo Paataashvili, "91 Chartia": "The Patsatsia's candidature is the guarantee, as a minimum, for peace-no threaten of the civil war. The other point is if Georgia can come to something new being led by him. Most of the things and dependent upon the content and the distribution of the political forces" [as received].

Irina Sarishvili, secretary of Georgian National-Democratic party, a wife of Georgiy Chanturia, a leader of the party, "Patsatsia isn't an economist. New government will be elected on Wednesday and this fact will determine the course of Georgia. It isn't clear if the economic reforms are done".

Patsatsia's biography: Was born in 1929 in the Zugdidi town (western Georgia) graduated from the Leningrad

Technological Institute in 1955 as an engineer-economist was one of the party leaders in 1965 became a director of the Zugdidi paper enterprise from 1992 was a head of the Zugdidi region.

Shevardnadze Goes to Moscow for Talks With Yeltsin

LD2208205793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2045 GMT 22 Aug 93

[By GEORGIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi August 23 TASS—As is known, Eduard Shevardnadze flies to Moscow on Monday.

The head of the Georgian state and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will have a one-on-one meeting. They will discuss relations between the two countries in the political and economic areas, including the question of an extensive treaty. Regional questions are expected to be touched upon, specifically problems connected with the settlement of the situation in Abkhazia with taking into account of the participation in these processes of the United Nations and other international organisations.

There is a plan for a meeting between the Georgian delegation and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. A broad range of economic matters will be discussed, including those of putting into order financial, crediting relations, interbank settlements and the necessary economic ties between the two countries. Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia and other members of the Georgian delegation will participate in the talks. President of the National Bank of Russia Viktor Gerashchenko is expected to participate from the Russian side.

Visit Previewed

MK2108111093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Aug 93 p 3

[Liana Minasyan report: "Eduard Shevardnadze Is Going to Moscow. A Treaty Between Georgia and Russia Has Many Opponents"]

[Text] On the eve of a working visit by Eduard Shevardnadze to Moscow (the Georgian leader will bring a very representative delegation along with him: Defense Minister Georgiy Karkarashvili and Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze, who will start negotiations with the Russian president at 1300 on Monday), Georgia's Ambassador to Russia Valerian Advadze has stated that a preliminary condition for normalizing Russian-Georgian relations has been fulfilled. He meant that a cease-fire in Abkhazia has been achieved, the process is being monitored by observers, and it is time to think about restoring what has been destroyed. He admitted that the economic situation in Georgia, which receives 85 percent of the needed energy from the outside (more than half from Russia alone), "is the worst in the whole of the former USSR." "Economically, the Soviet Union

still exists and the economy's 'invisible hand' has struck a blow against us. Therefore Georgia related with great interest to the idea of an economic union of the CIS countries, and its representatives will take part in the 7 September summit of CIS heads of government."

He believes that Shevardnadze's arrival in Moscow will bring nearer the signing of an interstate treaty. The aim of the visit by the head of the Georgian state is to ensure a solution to this question in principle and set a date (according to a preliminary arrangement, Yeltsin and Shevardnadze were to sign it in Tbilisi).

Moreover, contrary to standard practice, the draft treaty was presented to the Georgian parliament, where the opposition has strong suspicions that it is of an "onerous" character.

Such are the intentions. To carry them out, Eduard Shevardnadze will have to overcome triple resistance. Outside resistance—the Russian parliament has on three occasions announced an economic boycott of Georgia. Shevardnadze defies it by demonstratively appealing to Yeltsin's "democratic nature," not neglecting to stress that "a key to the solution of Abkhazia's problem is in Russia's hands." The Georgian authorities believe that verbal statements by Yeltsin and Kozyrev about the recognition of Georgia's territorial integrity will be enshrined in the text of the treaty and that the Abkhaz and South Ossetian leaders will "stop running to Moscow" for support and will have to look for a common language with Shevardnadze. For its part, Moscow, looking at Tbilisi, can receive a graphic lesson on the subject, "Separatism and its Consequences." The northern Caucasus and Abkhazia are conducting a political dialogue more actively than their parent states, and this uncontrollable process, in Tbilisi's opinion, can lead to the disintegration of Russia and Georgia alike, while this specific situation should make them natural allies.

But even if Tbilisi succeeds in neutralizing the outside, Russian factor affecting the situation in Abkhazia, this would hardly become a "convincing" argument for Vladislav Ardzinba. For the time being the Abkhazians could be satisfied with the military status quo established after the cease-fire—after all, any peacekeeping forces will be really separating not simply military formations but also Georgia and Abkhazia. Georgia believes, however, that politically the Abkhaz problem has already been resolved—the status of an autonomy has been and is still in place and no one "is infringing on it." Yet the Abkhaz authorities will hardly be enthusiastic about a return to the political status quo. But what seems little for Abkhazia could become a breaking point for Shevardnadze. The "little" he has conceded under the severe pressure of reality is causing counteraction from the opposition. The vociferous parliamentary minority has assessed the cease-fire agreement as "capitulation." The silent majority, voting after the head of state, has to share responsibility for his actions. They could be opposed under any pretext—and such a pretext will be justified from the point of view of "national

interests." If the agreement on Abkhazia does not lead to any tangible results, it would be next to impossible to convince the people that "the sacrifices of this war" were not in vain. Any of Shevardnadze's opponents can easily proclaim himself a hero, not burdening themselves by any responsibility for such a "tough" stand, although in the present situation assuming responsibility for a fairly humiliating, "capitulatory" agreement requires considerable courage. But this is the inevitable payment for former representatives of the Soviet elite who have staged a return to power—gone are the days when their decision was law, and now, forced to share power, they cannot also share responsibility for their decisions. Shevardnadze's visit to Moscow will take place against the backdrop of a noisy campaign for his resignation initiated by the Georgian Independent Party and parties affiliated in the Zviad "roundtable." In Samegrelo, Loli Kobaliya is still showing his teeth, while armed combatants returning to Tbilisi from the Abkhaz front have already begun to mock the notorious refrain "What did we fight for?"

Ambassador to Russia Comments

LD2008212693 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION
 AGENCY in Russian 1610 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] At a news conference today, Valerian Advadze, Georgian ambassador to the Russian Federation, voiced the opinion that "the direction Russo-Georgian relations will be developing in the near future significantly depends on the outcome of the working meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Head of the Georgian state Eduard Shevardnadze planned for 23 August."

The ambassador said that the meeting should become a decisive stage on the way to the signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Russia and Georgia. He presumed that the talks would result in "determination of a concrete date for signing this treaty, although its implementation in future will depend on how irreversible the process of the settlement of the Abkhazian conflict will be and how far will Boris Yeltsin and his team be controlling Russia's internal policy."

In this connection, Valerian Advadze voiced harsh criticism about the position of the Russian parliament which, having passed several resolutions on the Abkhazian issue, virtually declared economic boycott on the neighboring republic. He said that he had a meeting Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, the day before during which the latter assured him that he "will not spare efforts to have the future treaty between Russia and Georgia approved by the parliament." The speaker also said that he intended to invite a Georgian parliamentary delegation to Moscow on a visit aimed to establish closer contacts between the representative bodies of the power of the two states.

Further on Cease-Fire, Troop Withdrawal Accord

Russians Observers Arrive

NC2108172193 Yerevan SNARK in English 1253 GMT
21 Aug 93

["Settlement to the Abkhazian Conflict Is Underway"]

[Text] Gudauta, August 21 (SNARK)—On August 21 Abkhazian Supreme Soviet directed a message to the joint commission controlling fulfillment of the cease-fire agreement. The document points out facts of violations of the cease-fire by the Georgian side and raises the question of immediate Georgian troops withdrawal from the territory in Abkhazia and providing conditions for work rehabilitation of legal authorities in the town of Sukhumi.

Russian participants of the joint control commission on the Abkhazian conflict settlement came to Sukhumi to observe fulfillment of the plan and schedule of military troops withdrawal from the conflict zone. They will inspect the Dranda and Machara settlements where Georgian military equipment is deployed. By the end of August 20 the Abkhazian military troops withdrawing from the eastern front had to be gathered in the Chlou settlement, and the Georgian troops had to be gathered in Ochamchira.

Abkhazian Defense Ministry Report

LD2208111093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in
Georgian 0200 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] The Abkhazian Defense Ministry press service reports that the past 24 hours have passed quietly in the conflict zone.

The parties involved have been withdrawing troops. One hundred and seventy-five Georgian troops have been airlifted.

Yesterday, the Georgian side neutralized 10 anti-tank and 49 anti-infantry mines along the Gumista River front line.

According to the Abkhazian Defense Ministry, some 30 armored vehicles and over 5,000 Georgian Army troops in plain clothes remained in Sukhumi by 21 August.

According to the Tripartite Commission no shooting has been observed in the eastern direction, but the sides are not complying with the schedule of the troop withdrawal.

The Defense Ministry reports that a meeting of commanders of the opposing sides and a representative of the Russian Federation was held in Ochamchire on 20 August.

The talks revealed that the Georgian Army failed to take even a single unit of armored vehicles beyond the borders of Abkhazia due to the lack of fuel. Moreover, 2,720 servicemen of the Georgian Army, who are supposed to leave

the conflict zone, are still stationed in the town of Ochamchire. This is an excuse the Abkhazian side uses for not withdrawing its troops from the front line.

Shoygu Comments on Delays

LD2208214193 Moscow Ostankino Television First
Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Report on interview with Sergey Shoygu, chairman of Russian state committee for emergency situations, by correspondent R. Khashig in Abkhazia; date not given—recorded; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Khashig] Following the cease-fire which has been observed on the front lines in Abkhazia since 28 July, there has been no real progress toward solving the main problem: the withdrawal of Georgian troops from the territory of Abkhazia. Furthermore:

[Shoygu] The Abkhazian side has practically fulfilled the schedule. The only thing it still has to do is to withdraw about 120 people from the eastern front.

[Khashig] Following the agreed upon troop separation plan, the command of the Abkhazian armed forces drew off its armor and armed subunits from the Gumista front line. Volunteer formations have also been pulled out of Abkhazia.

[Shoygu] I can only say one thing: To date, the Georgian side has disrupted both the plan and the schedule. To our great regret, it has disrupted them for the third time. The troops have been drawn off, but as for the withdrawal of heavy artillery and of heavy military equipment, this point has unfortunately not been fulfilled.

[Khashig] Russia, which is acting as a mediator in the armed conflict, should take a tougher stance today in the interest of peace and of putting an end to the war. As was stated before, the need for sanctions has arisen for the side—currently Georgia—that is not fulfilling the obligations it has taken upon itself.

Owing to the disruption of the troop withdrawal schedule from the territory of Abkhazia to the Republic of Georgia, a number of issues in the agreement remain unresolved, including that of the legal bodies of power resuming their work in the republic, in the town of Sukhumi. If things develop this way, the cease-fire could be broken at any moment.

Shevardnadze, CSCE Mission Chief Discuss Peace Settlement

LD2208222093 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 2100 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] The chairman of the Georgian Parliament, Eduard Shevardnadze, has discussed with the leader of the mission of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Aleksandr Tsvetkov a peace settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian armed conflict. During the

meeting Shevardnadze assured that Georgia would complete the withdrawal of troops and combat equipment from Abkhazia next week, and said he was prepared to continue talks with Abkhazia. The hostilities began in Abkhazia in August last year when the autonomy proclaimed independence from Georgia.

Prosecutor's Office Says Woodruff Killer Detained

*LD2208171293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1631
GMT 22 Aug 93*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi August 22 TASS—The assassin of American diplomat Fred Woodruff who was killed not far from Tbilisi on August 8 has been detained. He is 21-year old resident of Georgia's Dushet District Anzor

Sharmanadze who admitted his guilt, the Georgian public prosecutor's office reported.

Sharmanadze said that in the evening of August 8, on the Georgian military highway, not far from Tbilisi, he tried to stop a Niva automobile to get petrol for his Zhiguli car. His demand went unheeded and, annoyed, he fired a burst from an automatic gun in the direction of the retreating car.

It is believed the deceased was a career officer of the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States. He arrived in Georgia as a representative of the U.S. Embassy and was staying in Georgia for considerable time. This supposition is confirmed by the fact that CIA Director James Woolsey arrived in Georgia in a special plane so that the body of the deceased be taken to the United States.

Lithuania

Brazauskas Postpones Meeting With Yeltsin, Views 'Worsened' Ties

LD2208200393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1900 GMT 22 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vldas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius, 22 Aug—In an interview on national television this evening Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas explained the reasons for his decision to postpone his meeting in Moscow with Russian Federation leader Boris Yeltsin, which was scheduled for tomorrow, and expressed his views on Lithuanian-Russian relations, which have worsened recently.

The head of state voiced his concern over the tension which has arisen between Vilnius and Moscow due to Russia's sudden decision to suspend the withdrawal of troops from the Republic's territory. He expressed "regret that the Russian Federation is not complying with its international obligations to withdraw Russian troops by the appointed date and is seeking various pretexts to suspend this operation."

A. Brazauskas stated that he intends in the very near future to appeal to international organizations or to some foreign country which might agree to act as mediator in Lithuania's dialogue with Russia on the withdrawal of its troops from the Republic's territory before 31 August of this year and on the issue of compensation for damages caused by the former USSR.

According to him, "Lithuania and Russia must preserve friendly, good-neighborly relations in all aspects. Unfortunately, we are wasting time which could be used to continue talks on very important problems that concern both sides." In this context he criticized the stance taken by the Lithuanian state delegation at talks with Russia, which "did not show flexibility and was unable to reach an agreement on matters under discussion."

A. Brazauskas has warned Lithuanian politicians that they should be more restrained in fueling the scandal around the withdrawal of the Russian troops, "because at the same time this undermines the country's international prestige." He also appealed to Lithuanians to refrain from showing emotions, provoking under any circumstances or insulting Russian servicemen or members of their families who are still here.

The head of state expressed the hope that a compromise with Russia will be found and that relations will go back to normal. "This is my position," he underlined.

Deems Visit 'Inexpedient'

LD2208103893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0942 GMT 22 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vldas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius, Aug 22—Contrary to what has been announced, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas will not meet Boris Yeltsin, the Russian Federation head of state, in Moscow this coming Monday. Mr. Brazauskas deems such a visit "inexpedient" in the present situation, Lithuanian Radio said, quoting an official statement of the Lithuanian Presidential Press Secretary Nerius Malukavicius.

According to him, Algirdas Brazauskas took this decision after consulting Lithuanian representatives who had met last Saturday in Moscow with Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian Federation first deputy foreign minister. Documents due to be signed on Monday by the two heads of state were to be agreed during the meeting. Since, according to Mr. Malukavicius, "the Moscow meeting has failed to reconcile substantial differences in the positions of the two sides, the Lithuanian president deems it unnecessary to go ahead with the summit meeting under these circumstances."

The Lithuanian head of state is to go on national television this evening to explain the reasons of his decisions.

As it is known, tensions in relations between Lithuania and the Russian Federation have recently arisen following the decision of the Russian Federation to halt the pullout of its troops from the territory of the Lithuanian republic.

Government Reacts to Russian Foreign Ministry Statement

LD2208142793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1350 GMT 22 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vldas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius, Aug 22—"We were surprised by the unexpected appearance today of a statement from the Russian Foreign Ministry regarding Lithuania and the talks to conclude work on a draft agreement for the withdrawal of Russian troops, and that it was couched in somewhat sharp language," the Lithuanian president's press spokesman told ITAR-TASS today in an exclusive interview. Nerijus Maliukevicius also said that the accusations leveled in the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's statement, about alleged threats made against Russian servicemen in Lithuania and members of their families and other Russian citizens, were incomprehensible. "That simply has not happened, and neither could it happen," he stressed.

In the words of the president's press spokesman, "Russian mass media have lately been speculating about Lithuania allegedly demanding from the Russian Federation 146 billion dollars compensation for the damage caused by the former USSR." (This figure, incidentally, was cited in an interview given by Colonel-General Leonid Mayorov, commander of Russia's North Western Group of Forces). However, the Lithuanian delegation at the talks never mentioned either this, or

indeed any other figure in any of the official draft documents," the Lithuanian president's spokesman said. According to N. Maliukevicius, "the only thing that has been said is that in principle the issue of compensation has to be discussed at the talks."

"The president of Lithuania is concerned about the present complicated situation in the relations between the two countries, and intends to do everything possible to normalize them," N. Maliukevicius emphasized.

Butkevicius Urges Early Resolution of Troop Withdrawal Dispute

LD2308095693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0910 GMT 23 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vldas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius, 23 Aug—"I declare with full responsibility that despite the sudden change in Russia's attitude all differences can and should be resolved by means of negotiations in the near future." So says a statement by Audrius Butkevicius, Lithuanian minister of national defense and chief plenipotentiary of the republic for questions of the withdrawal of Russian troops which was released here today.

"Our aim is to achieve mutual security and stability and to uphold good relations with all our neighbors, including the Russian Federation. The Ministry of National Defense, despite the complexity of the situation, will make every effort to avoid all possible provocations or increase in tension and to maintain good relations with the Russian servicemen who remain in Lithuania," the document asserts.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Suspension of Withdrawal

LD2008214793 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Meanwhile in response to the official note on the suspension of troop withdrawal, the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry made a statement today evaluating Russia's steps as a violation of its previous agreements with Lithuania and an attempt to affect the negotiations process. Ignoring resolutions by the United Nations and Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, its international commitments and the world opinion by which it must not link the army withdrawal with any other questions, the Russian Federation has violated the schedule for the troop withdrawal from Lithuania signed on 8 August 1992.

Landsbergis Urges Response to Troop Withdrawal Suspension

WS2008124593 Tallinn BNS in English 1541 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Vilnius, Aug 19, BNS—Right-wing opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis suggests Lithuania "can

respond in various ways" to the "signal" from Moscow that it has suspended or will suspend the withdrawal of its troops. Landsbergis told the Lietuvos rytas he doubted the wisdom of the country's leaders' decision to go to Moscow soon to sign an agreement on the withdrawal.

Instead, he said, Lithuania should rally support from the West and international organizations with which "Russia will have to reckon."

Lithuania has made "significant and hardly justifiable" concessions by allowing duty-free and uncontrolled transit of goods from large factories in the Kaliningrad region, he said. The opposition leader claims Lithuania could respond by canceling that concession.

He also argued that Russian citizens should not be allowed to enter Lithuania unless they have visas.

Knezys on Suspension of Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD2008123893 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] The Russian Army has suspended the handing over of its property, and in Kaunas the 7th Airborne Division and the 242nd Airborne Training Center ceased loading possessions on to the railway wagons, an ELTA correspondent was told today by Colonel Stasys Knezys, the chief of staff of the Joint Armed Forces, government representative on the withdrawal of the Russian Army, who spoke of changes in the withdrawal of the Russian Army.

He noted that Russian airborne units temporarily suspended their loading operations three days ago and did not sign the acts of the hand over of equipment. But, since last Tuesday, several acts of the hand over of some former property of the Russian military units have been signed. According to Stasys Knezys, these units [as heard] have already been taken over by Lithuania, and this only needed to be confirmed by documents. Now everything has been frozen until Monday, said Knezys.

Rallies Criticize President Brazauskas

LD2208195193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1915 GMT 22 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vldas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius, August 22—The organisers of a rally of the Sajudis Movement and eight rightwing and centrist parties declaring against the idea of a meeting of the heads of state of Russia and Lithuania in Moscow on Monday had at the last moment to change the target of their criticism. It became known that President Algirdas Brazauskas will not go to Moscow and that the summit meeting is put off. It would seem that a rally of protest against the visit by the head of state would be unnecessary.

Nevertheless, the organisers of the rally told the several thousand demonstrators who gathered in the square in front of the Sejm that the rally is held on the eve of the black ribbon day, the 54th anniversary of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact that brought much suffering to Baltic peoples.

However, speakers, seemingly forgetting the motto of the rally, levied fierce criticism at the Lithuanian president for the sole reason that he was going to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin. "It is good that the Kremlin refused him", they were saying.

Speakers at the rally mainly criticised the president, Foreign Minister Povilas Gylis and the Russian Foreign Ministry "for threatening statements regarding the halting of Russian troop withdrawal, statements insulting Lithuania's honour and dignity". Leader of the opposition in the Sejm Vytautas Landsbergis and writer Kazis Soja made a call for rallies across Lithuania in protest against statements of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Brazauskas Efforts To Break Deadlock in Ties Viewed

MK2108120093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Aug 93 p 3

[Tamara Nikolayeva report in "Lithuania" rubric: "The President's Battering Ram. Will It Break a Hole in the Wall of Misunderstanding?"]

[Text] As has become known, a meeting between the presidents of Lithuania and Russia has been set for 23 August. On Monday Algirdas Brazauskas will go to Moscow accompanied by Foreign Minister Povilas Gylis, National Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius, and Virgilys Bulovas, head of the Lithuanian delegation to talks with Russia. According to Algirdas Brazauskas, he was prompted to make a decision about the "presidential battering ram" by the fact that further negotiations at the level of delegations are absolutely unproductive and fruitless.

This statement by the president forced the delegation to meet behind closed doors. There were persistent rumors that the session would end up with a decision to resign en bloc. Contrary to these rumors, however, the state delegation issued a statement assuring the citizens of Lithuania that it is working and is ready to work in the future to make sure that the rights of the Lithuanian state and its citizens are protected. True, even the president himself assessed the possibility of the delegation's resignation as an extreme move.

Nonetheless, Algirdas Brazauskas believes that an agreement on the troop pullout must be signed at the top level, although not much time is left for that. The nonsigning

of the agreement on the withdrawal of troops, he said at a meeting with the press, has brought about certain consequences which are totally unwelcome to Lithuania. The establishment of mutual relations with Russia in various fields and their development is a necessity. The treaty on the pullout of troops at the top level is important and acceptable for Lithuania, especially since that would also address other questions which would receive a legal foundation—on military bases, on the transfer of some Russian armaments to Lithuania, and on reimbursing the ecological and other damage caused by the army.

The right opposition believes that in the present situation the president's trip to Moscow will cause more harm than good. In haste, documents could be signed that would damage the interests of the Lithuanian republic. With respect to Foreign Minister Povilas Gylis and the entire present Lithuanian leadership, suspected of pursuing behind-the-scenes relations with Russia, the rightist opposition urgently presented an interpellation. This proved to be invalid since under the Lithuanian Constitution, an interpellation may only be presented during a Seimas session.

The above statement by the state delegation also stresses that such a situation in which interstate agreements are prepared and signed while one state threatens the other, a partner in negotiations, is totally impermissible. "Russia," says the statement, "is obliged to pull out its forces from Lithuania unconditionally, while the question of procedures for reimbursing damage caused to Lithuania and its citizens beginning in 1940 is still subject to discussion."

Therefore there is a certain paradox in that Algirdas Brazauskas will be coming to the meeting with Boris Yeltsin in Moscow accompanied by people whose approaches to the solution of the above problems of Lithuanian-Russian relations do not quite coincide, to put it mildly. Asked whether in the current situation he would not make more concessions than is admissible during this meeting, Algirdas Brazauskas noted: As many as can be admitted by the Lithuanian state and himself as president. At the same time, Brazauskas categorically rejected the opposition's assertion that he is allegedly going to waive the compensation claim. "I understand," he stressed, "that this is a demand of the June 1992 referendum, and as president I am obliged to fulfill it."

So, the emerging situation is rather peculiar. The "president's battering ram" is, of course, a powerful means, but will it break the solid wall of misunderstanding in Lithuanian-Russian relations? This is fairly problematic, with the present positions of the sides and the lineup of forces—although, to be sure, it would be very welcome to both states.

